

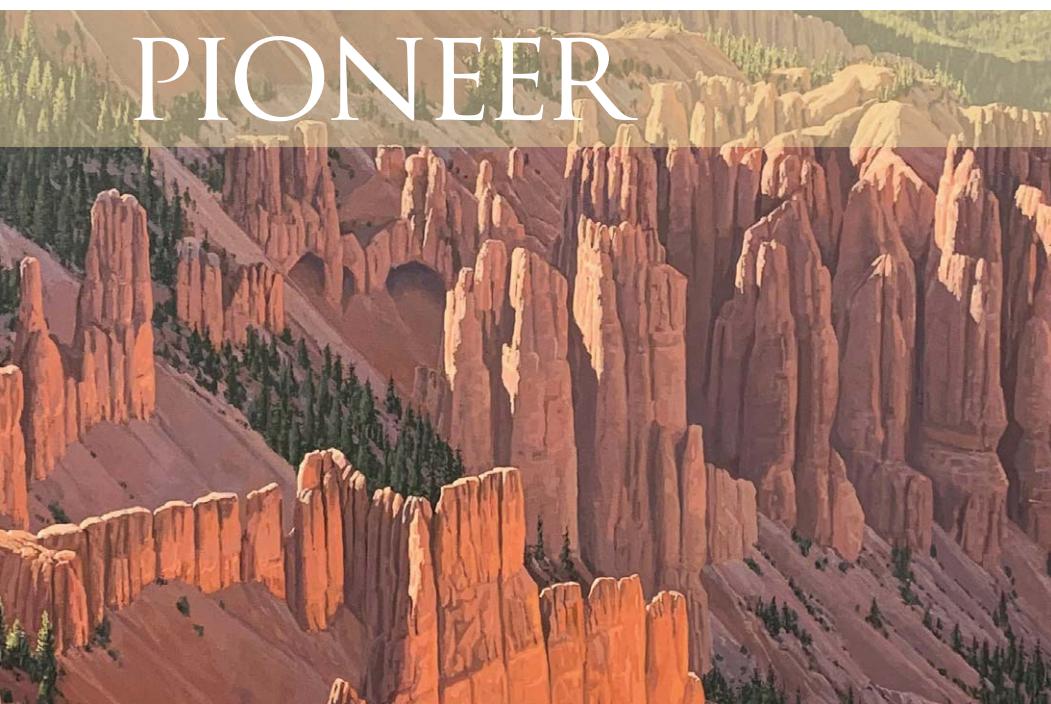
2021 . VOLUME 68 . NUMBER 4

PIONEER

CELEBRATING THE
HISTORY OF UTAH'S
NATIONAL PARKS
AND MONUMENTS

PUBLISHED BY THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS

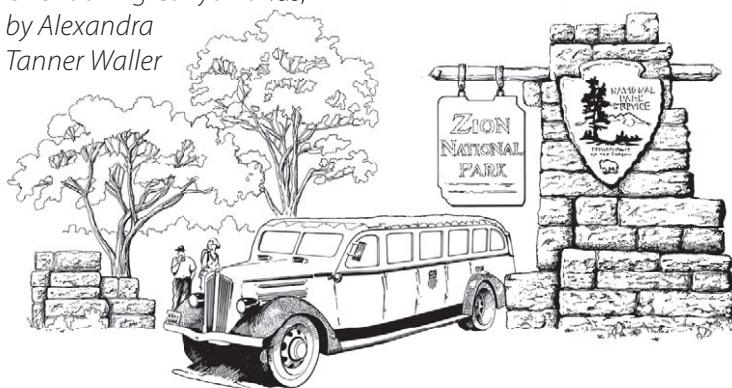
PIONEER



COVER: Bryce Canyon, by David Meikle—named by the Springville Museum of Art as one of Utah's 100 "Most Honored" artists.

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THE PIONEER VALUES: We honor the pioneers for their faith in God, devotion to family, loyalty to church and country, hard work and service to others, courage in adversity, personal integrity, and unyielding determination.

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It is my pleasure to introduce this issue of *Pioneer*, which features connections among early settlers and Saints in Utah and

the breathtaking landscapes eventually numbered among Utah's national parks and monuments. You are undoubtedly familiar with Utah's spectacular natural wonders, but you may not know their connections to early Utah pioneers, outdoor enthusiasts, and politicians.

Latter-day Saint pioneers were among the first European Americans to see the parks and monuments and the first to live in or near them. Their stories and responses are tied in a variety of ways to eventual recognition of the parks and monuments as scenic wonders and as places of extraordinary beauty and appeal.

Utah was a leader in the creation of national monuments and parks and has been home to one since 1909. In fact, it was Reed Smoot, a US senator from Utah and an Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who wrote and sponsored legislation that ultimately created the National Park Service. Smoot had very special feelings for the sandstone mountains and monoliths comprising the awe-inspiring canyon through which the North Fork of the Virgin River flowed. Small groups of nineteenth-century Latter-day Saint pioneers had explored the canyon in the late 1860s and had tried—with varying degrees of success—to establish grazing or agricultural lands near it or within it. What to them was an unusually intimidating and hostile landscape has now become an internationally known treasure, Zion National Park.

Initially designated Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909 and given its current name a decade later, Zion National Park has special significance to me. Three generations of my Gibson ancestors pioneered and built the settlements at the park entrance. These same Gibsons are buried in quaint cemeteries near Zion—cemeteries still attached to vibrant communities, cemeteries existing as final evidences of long-faded ghost towns.

Today, I delight in driving through Zion on signature roads made of local red cinder. And exploring Zion's landmarks never gets old. But visiting Zion and other national places in Utah is no longer quiet or "personal" in ways it used to be. Now, several million visitors come to Utah's five national parks—the "Mighty Five"—and thirteen national monuments each year.

Utah's pioneer traditions of communal support for communal endeavors have helped park and monument "gateway communities" to weather boom-or-bust challenges and to evolve as

renowned hosting centers that warmly receive visitors from around the world.

I know you will enjoy this issue of *Pioneer*. Its design, photographs, and illustrations are stunning and will bring back memories of your own visits to Utah's most beautiful places. And you will learn new things about Utah's national parks and monuments and the people who helped "discover," popularize, and protect them. I am grateful to all who have helped in any way to create and shape this beautiful issue. If you enjoy it, and if you currently are not a *Pioneer* subscriber, please consider sending in your subscription today—and please consider joining the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

Please enjoy reconnecting to Utah's parks and monuments and learning about significant individuals who have been a part of their development. You are in for a delightful reading experience. ■

LARRY M. GIBSON
SUP NATIONAL PRESIDENT 2022

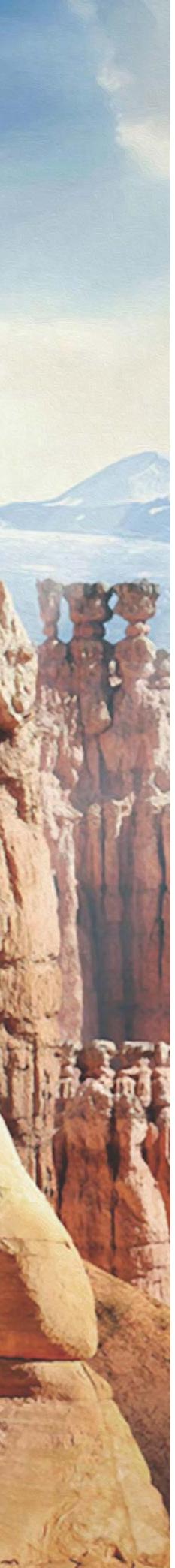


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THE
MIGHTY
5

UTAH
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Utah's National Parks AND Monuments



BY JEDEDIAH ROGERS

It is no secret anymore, if it ever was, that Utah has some of the most spectacular scenery on the planet. Visitors, domestic and international, enjoy the state's diverse recreational options, from world-class skiing and mountaineering in the Wasatch Mountains to river-running and canyoneering on the Colorado Plateau. Arriving in an air-conditioned vehicle and enjoying comfortable accommodations, today's average visitor to Utah has nary a thought of the long natural and cultural histories that created the state's celebrated natural treasures. The "Mighty Five" campaign, launched by the Utah Office of Tourism in 2013 to promote the state's five national parks, was successful almost to a fault: during the first year tourism increased by 17.5 percent, contributing millions in tax revenue and income but also putting pressure on park facilities and gateway communities beyond what they were initially prepared to endure.¹

Each of the Mighty Five lies in the state's

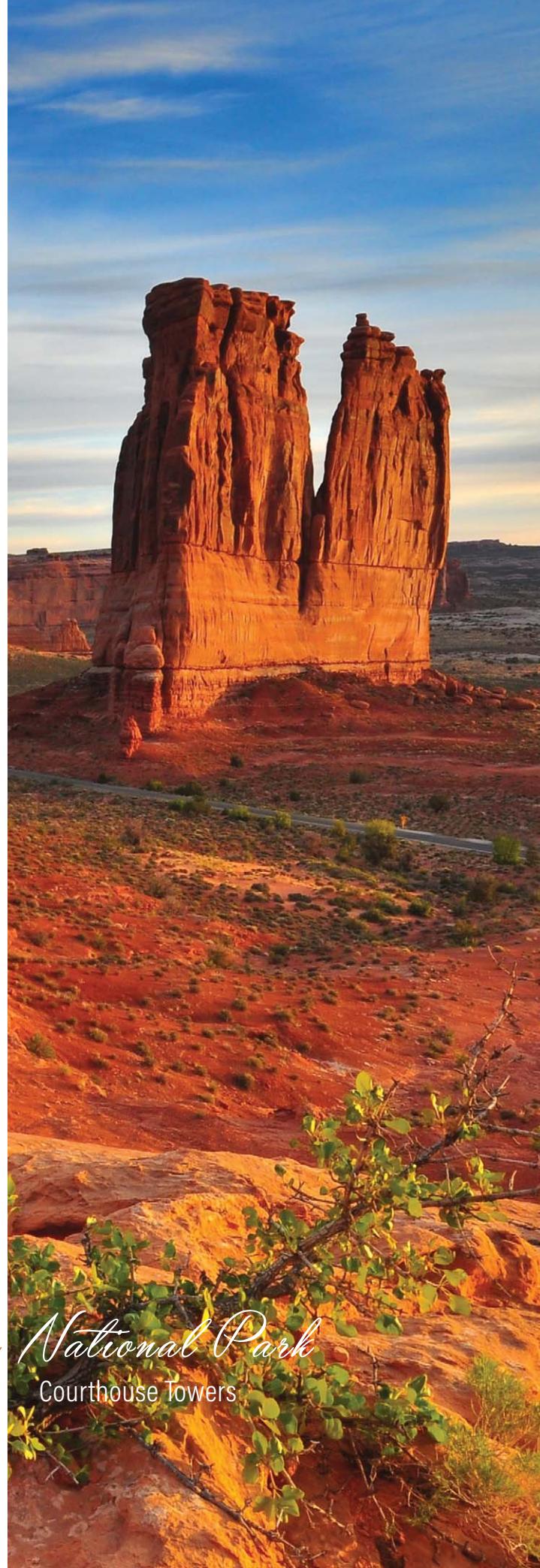
southern half. Zion National Park is the farthest west, straddling the Virgin River Basin—which drains southwest into the Colorado River near Las Vegas—and the Colorado Plateau. Both Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks are located within a physiographic province known as the High Plateaus of Utah. Arches, Canyonlands, and Capitol Reef National Parks sit within the heart of the Canyon Lands Section of the Colorado Plateau.² While each of these places is intrinsically spectacular, deserving of all recognition it receives, the elevation of each to national park status resulted from particular sets of historical circumstances intersecting with conscientious individual personalities. This is, of course, true of each of the state's national monuments as well. And the designation as a national park or monument does not by itself guarantee the status of an important site: it takes as much political will and cultural discipline to protect and manage a park or monument as it did to secure its designation in the first place.

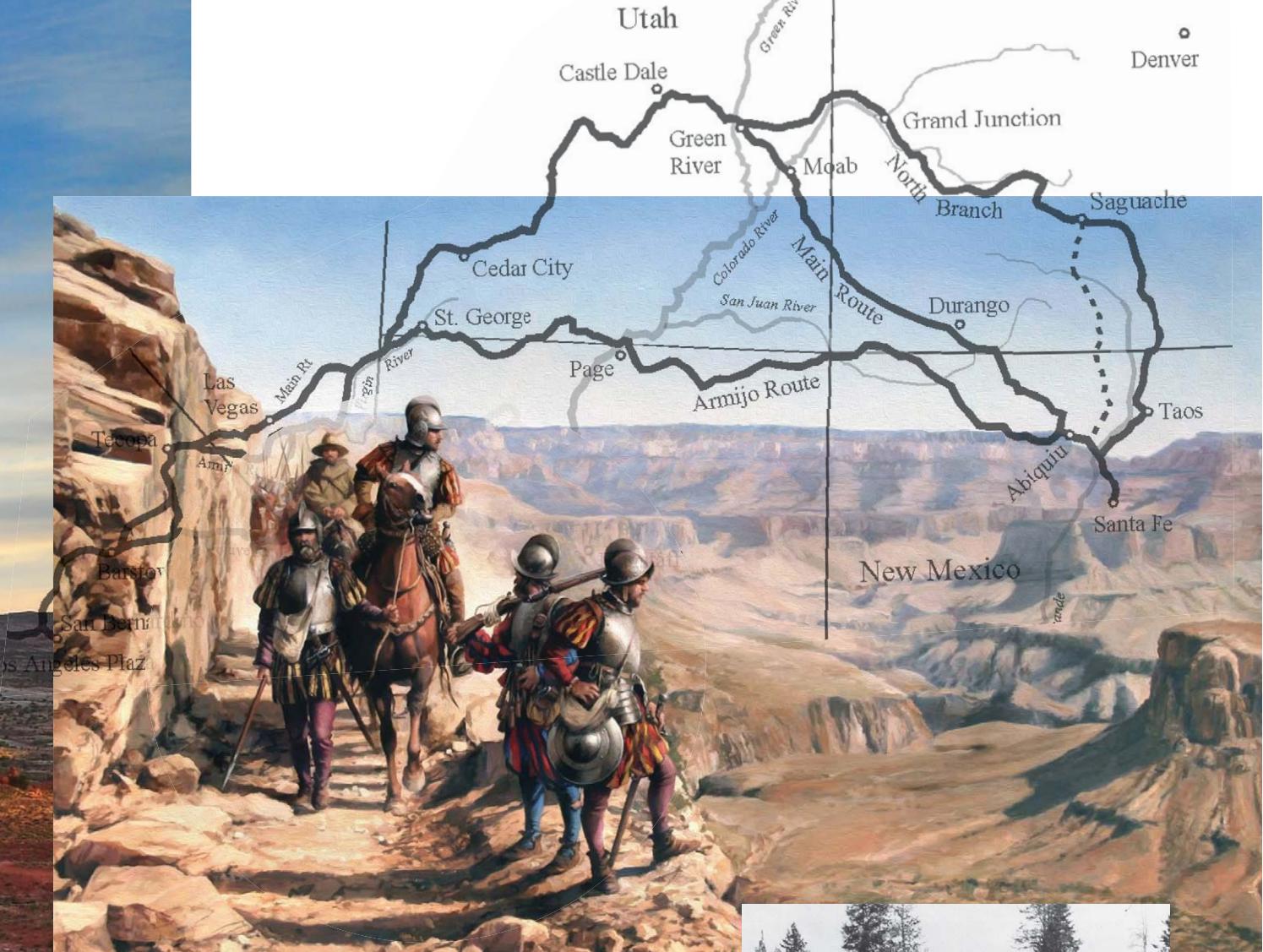
The public's awareness and celebration of Utah's "scenic south" developed gradually in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. When Garcia Lopez de Cardenas became the first European to set eyes on the Rio Colorado near the Grand Canyon in the sixteenth century, he and subsequent European visitors saw nothing to celebrate. Confounded by a region that, with its twisted forms and deep gorges, was more a harsh, uninviting barrier to travel and cultivation than an otherworldly landscape, much less a wonderland, early missionaries, explorers, and other travelers largely avoided the Colorado Plateau. This was also true of trappers, traders, and pioneers during much of the nineteenth century. The circuitous Spanish Trail, a trade route connecting Santa Fe with the Spanish missions in California, skirted the edges of the plateau—drawing close to what is now Arches, since Moab's Spanish Valley afforded the best crossing of the Colorado River—but deliberately bypassed what would become the region's national parks and monuments.³

The national park idea grew out of the country's self-congratulatory ideals.

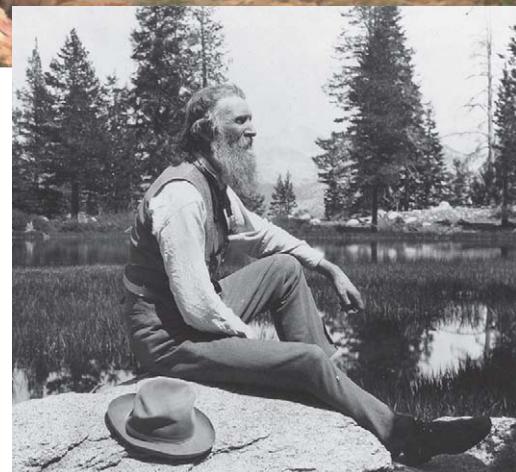
*Arches
National Park*

Courthouse Towers





Both Yellowstone (1872) and Yosemite (1890), the earliest national parks, satisfied Americans' national pride and fueled public devotion to American exceptionalism. Painters like Thomas Moran and photographers like William Henry Jackson depicted or captured landscapes matching the ambition of a nation driven by Manifest Destiny to grow in size, strength, and influence. Although a few nineteenth-century Americans, like Henry David Thoreau, considered nature a community to be respectfully inhabited, the principal late-nineteenth-century proponents of national parks couched their advocacy in human-centric terms. The concept of a "national park" suggested theoretical means to care for and protect a national resource, most certainly, but it also pointed to ways of securing



John Muir lobbied successfully for the creation of Yosemite Park in 1890

a broader, more influential national identity and of capitalizing on such an identity domestically and internationally.⁴ Still, the impulse to protect America's landscapes reflected a shift away from perceiving the land solely in economic terms.

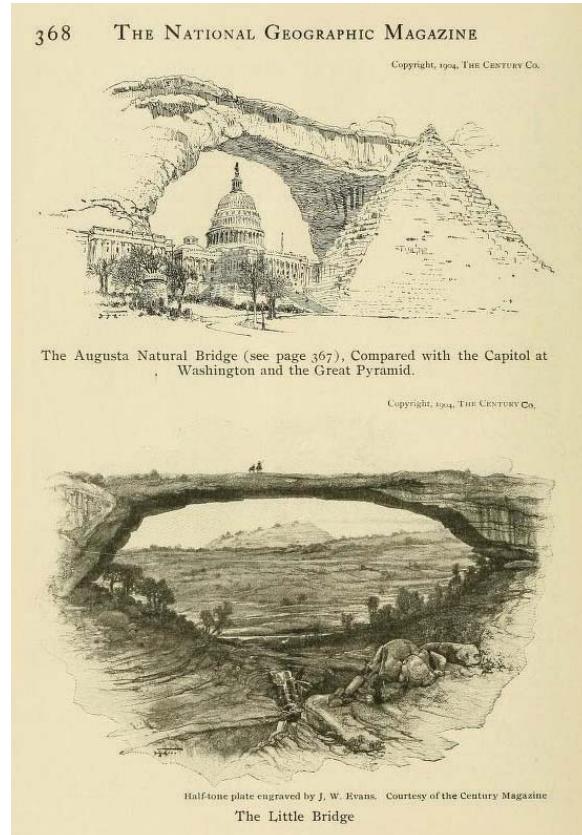
In the nineteenth century, government surveyors were the first to document and publish descriptions of the places that became Utah's national parks and monuments.

Because of their general inaccessibility, Utah's scenic wonders—especially those in southeastern Utah—were not widely known until the twentieth century. As a member of the Commercial Club expedition of 1905, the landscape painter Henry Culmer traveled to White Canyon to visit a trio of natural bridges that Cass Hite had chanced upon twenty years earlier. Culmer's studio paintings of the bridges, along with Edwin Holmes's account of the Commercial Club expedition, appeared in *National Geographic*. That expedition, along with University of Utah professor Byron Cummings's archeological investigations in White Canyon in 1907, prompted Theodore Roosevelt to designate the region as Natural Bridges National Monument under the newly passed Antiquities Act. The acreage of the monument was enlarged by Roosevelt's successor in the White House, Howard Taft.⁵

National attention also focused on the Colorado Plateau with the publicized "discovery" of Rainbow Bridge by Cummings in 1909. Located just below the point where the San Juan River meets the Colorado River in Glen Canyon, this natural sandstone formation had long been known and revered by Navajo, Paiute, and other Indigenous peoples. Again, *National Geographic* highlighted the find, which may have initiated what Paul Nelson calls "adventurer tourism" in the red-rock country. Guides from local towns began taking individuals on primitive pack trips to these hard-to-reach places in the backcountry, which had none of the infrastructure or popular appeal of parks like Yosemite, Yellowstone, and Grand Canyon.⁶

On the North Fork of the Virgin River, Zion Canyon was also receiving national attention. Long inhabited by Indigenous peoples, including the Southern Paiute, the canyon was first settled by Latter-day Saint pioneers in the 1860s, who endowed the place and many of its landmarks with religiously significant names. By the first decade of the twentieth century, Zion Canyon was being described as a magnificent national gem, leading to Taft's designating it as Mukuntuweap (so named by John Wesley Powell) National Monument in 1909. Three years after the creation of the National Park Service (NPS) in 1916, Congress gave the monument national park status. Bolstered by tourist promotions of Union Pacific Railroad, Mukuntuweap was soon being ranked among the great parks of the American West.

Other monument designations in Utah soon followed. To the east of Zion on the Paun-



National Geographic, 1904





Bryce Canyon National Park

Thors Hammer

saugnt Plateau, Bryce Canyon—a place of hued rock pillars that scientist Grove Karl Gilbert of the Powell Survey called “a perfect wilderness of red pinnacles”—was made a national monument in 1923 and a national park in 1928.⁷ Further north, in the Moab-Cisco Desert, Arches National Monument was created by Herbert Hoover in 1929. Subsequently expanded in 1938 and 1968, the monument was designated a national park in 1971. Said to be the largest concentration of natural arches in the world, Arches is among the West’s best known and most visited parks.⁸

By the 1930s some precedent had been established in creating large, horizon-to-horizon national monuments. None, however, compared to the four-and-a-half-million-acre monument proposed by Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Interior secretary, Harold Ickes. The Escalante National Monument would have incorporated the expanse of southeastern Utah from Arches National Monument to the Utah–Arizona border. The dissent of southern Utah sheepherders, ranchers, and miners helped kill the proposal, as did the concern of Utahns like Dodge Freeman, who cherished the state’s unblemished natural areas and worried that the designation would cheapen the wilderness experience. “To me,” he wrote, “the charm of the wilderness along the Colorado rests far more in its inaccessibility and freedom from trodden paths than in its admitted wonderful beauty. I often asked myself last summer whether I would get the same sense of pleasure and enjoyment I got riding through that country on horseback if I were to go through by motor bus or auto with a lot of rubber-neck tourists ogling around and making inane remarks—I trust you can satisfy yourself as to the answer that came to me!”⁹ Freeman’s comments would be echoed by subsequent generations concerned about the curated outdoor experience that national parks and monuments cultivate.

Portions of Ickes’s proposed but ill-fated Escalante National Monument would ultimately emerge as smaller national parks, monuments, and recreation areas—Capitol Reef National Monument in 1937, Canyonlands National Park in 1964, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in

1972. Capitol Reef's designation was the product of local boosterism for the scenic qualities of what was originally Wayne's Wonderland (named for its location in Wayne County). In 1969, more than three decades after Capitol Reef's designation as a national monument and on his last day in office, Lyndon Johnson enlarged the monument to include the entire length of the Waterpocket Fold, a massive, tilting geologic landform that extends a hundred miles, north to south. The move incensed local ranchers worried about curtailed grazing privileges. Two years later Richard Nixon designated the area a national park.¹⁰

Canyonlands encompasses the heart of Utah's desert wilderness where the Colorado and Green Rivers converge.

Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, who applied political pressure to achieve park status for the region, referred to "the mighty lashes of wind- and water-gouged canyons" that "eroded the land into startling pinnacles and arches." As instrumental as Udall and his congressional allies were, Canyonlands owes its status more directly to locals like Bates Wilson who, as superintendent of Arches National Monument, heavily promoted the Needles District, Island in the Sky, and Land of Standing Rocks as worthy of congressional notice, lobbying passionately for national park status.¹¹

As memorably demonstrated by Johnson's last-minute designation of Capitol Reef, the executive branch has broad authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to select national monuments. Utah officials and their rural constituents frequently complain about executive overreach. That concern was widely expressed following the September 1996 designation of the nearly 1.9-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. It also came to a head in the 2016 designation of Bears Ears National Monument which, like Grand Staircase-Escalante, was massive in size and in close proximity to rural communities that had long resisted federal management of public lands.

Canyonlands National Park





Each of the national parks and monuments in the American West is geographically and culturally unique, and each has developed within a special set of localized circumstances. And yet it is useful to place them in a regional perspective—to see them not merely as federally initiated or politically protective designations but as having emerged from the geological, biological, and cultural contexts of a particular region. Indeed, the West's parks (and open spaces between the parks) face existential threats ranging from booming tourism and rapid community growth to water shortages and drought. These challenges are not unique to any one place but are endemic to the region.

Moreover, the designation of *national* parks and monuments may suggest that such sites are universally respected and loved. In fact, the designation of each site has been contested in turn. Some are still contested on such questions as appropriate land usage or local vs. federal management.¹² Compounding the issues of park designation is the often sacred significance of a given site to Indigenous peoples. Policy makers and land managers are grappling with the fact that while national parks and monuments belong to all Americans and are a cherished common inheritance, they often are located on the original homelands of Indigenous peoples.¹³

As is true of much of the West, people are flocking to Utah to live, work, and recreate, and tourism is booming. Visitors to Zion National Park between 2013 and 2018, for example, increased a staggering fifty-nine percent.¹⁴ Increased tourism strains the resources of many Utah towns dependent on an amenities-based economy, and managers of Utah's spectacular national parks and monuments know that achieving

appropriate balance between preservation and growth will be a continuing challenge in the years to come. □

1 Frederick H. Swanson, *Wonders of Sand and Stone: A History of Utah's National Parks and Monuments* (2020), 279–80; Angus M. Woodbury, *A History of Southern Utah and Its National Parks* (1944); "National Park Service Administrative Histories," *National Park Service*, nps.gov, online.

2 "Colorado Plateaus Province," *National Park Service*, nps.gov, online.

3 For the premodern history of the Colorado Plateau, including shifting perceptions of inhabitants and visitors, see Paul T. Nelson, *Wrecks of Human Ambition: A History of Utah's Canyon Country to 1936* (2014); and Gary Topping, *Glen Canyon and the San Juan Country* (1997).

4 Roderick Frazier Nash, *The Rights of Nature: A History of Environmental Ethics* (1989), 35–41.

5 Swanson 15–26.

6 Nelson 205–6.

7 Steve Allen, *Utah's Canyon Country Place Names*, v. 1 (2012), 86–7.

8 Allen 32.

9 Quoted in Jedediah Rogers, *Roads in the Wilderness: Conflict in Canyon Country* (2013), 137.

10 Allen 112.

11 Allen 111.

12 Betsy Gaines Quammen has argued that Zion National Park was uniquely created in collaboration with local Latter-day Saint settlers ("American Zion: Mormon Culture and the Creation of a National Park," *The Earth Will Appear: Essays on Mormon Environmental History*, eds. Jedediah S. Rogers and Matthew C. Godfrey (2019), 131–51).

13 Yvette Towersap Tuell, "Public Lands and American Indians: Traditional Use and Off-Reservation Treaty Rights," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 88 (Sp 2020): 115–20.

14 Brian Maffly, "Mighty 5' Campaign Brought an Extra Half-Million Visitors to Parks; Now Utah Wants to Steer Them to Other Places," *Salt Lake Tribune*, 11 May 2019.





Zion

Utah's First National Park



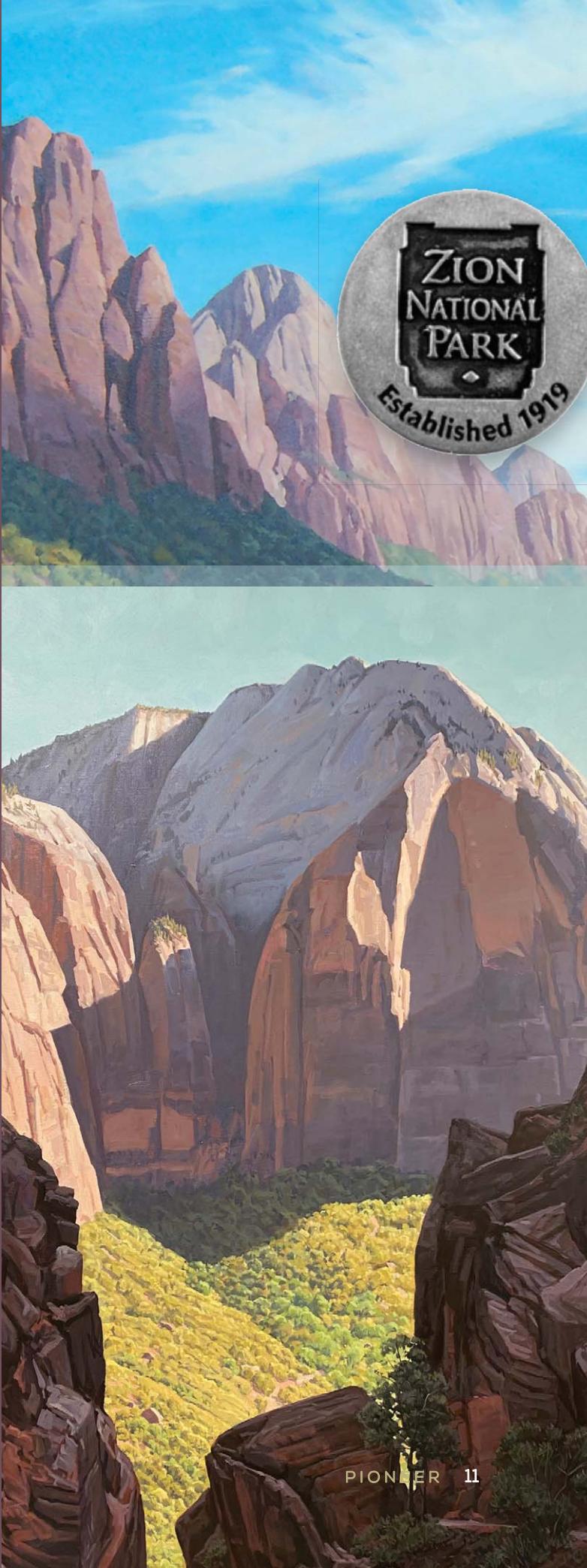
BY WAYNE K. HINTON

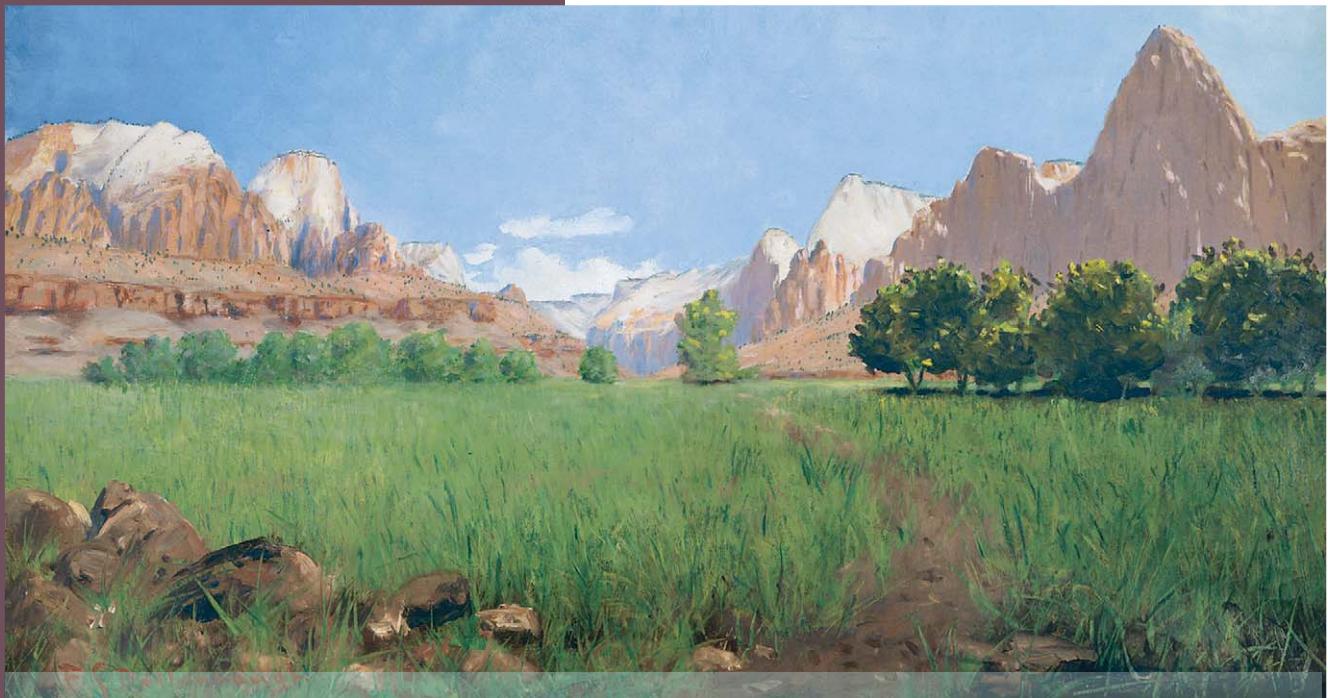
The development of Zion Canyon and its establishment in 1919 as a national park resulted from cooperative efforts by residents of southern Utah, administrators of the National Park Service, corporate leaders of the Union Pacific and San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad companies, leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and such government officials as US Senator Reed Smoot.

By the early twentieth century, residents of upriver towns in eastern Washington County, Utah, realized that they had a remarkable commodity—a spectacularly dramatic canyon with colorful Navajo Sandstone peaks—that people would pay money to visit. But before they could publicize it, they would have to overcome grave inaccessibility issues: the nearest railroad station was 102 miles away at Lund, Utah, and local roads were isolated and rough.

The first known Euro-American visitor to what is now Zion was Nephi Johnson, who entered the canyon in 1858 when Virgin, Utah—the first white pioneer town upriver from the canyon—was being established. Soon, noted white explorers were describing the canyon for national audiences. One of these was John Wesley Powell, who arrived at the canyon in 1872 and provided enduring names for two of its landmarks, West Temple and East Temple.

After eight southern Utah ranchers applied in 1908 for a federal survey of land near what is now Zion Canyon, Utah governor John C. Cutler was inspired to help secure the appointment of Leo K. Snow, a resident of St. George, Utah, to survey Zion itself. Snow's subsequent description of the deep and rugged





Frederick Dellenbaugh —



*first visited Zion
Canyon as an
artist with John
Wesley Powell's
second expedition
down the Colorado*

*River in 1871–72. He returned to Zion
in May 1903, when he . . . made a
series of oil paintings, including this
one, which he may have exhibited at
the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. His
words and images stirred interest in
the area, and intrigued outsiders who
were curious and skeptical about the
scenery he described.*

—SEE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NP GALLERY DIGITAL ASSETS, ONLINE

terrain caught the attention of prominent national preservationists who began lobbying immediately to protect scenery “surpassed in grandeur only . . . by the Grand Cañon of the Colorado.”¹ On July 31, 1909, President William Howard Taft, under provisions of the Antiquities Act, set aside 15,840 acres as Mukuntuweap National Monument. The set-aside land included only today's central canyon area—what early settlers called Little Zion Canyon.²

Early on, national monuments were managed by agents of the General Land Office (GLO). Agents visited Zion two or three times a year, staying at a hotel in Hurricane, twenty-five miles from the monument, or with farm families in Springdale. They made their way into the canyon with hired teams and wagons.³

The agents' reports were informal, describing existing roads as “sporadically maintained” while asserting that “nature seems to have made this canyon a fine gallery of stupendous proportions.” Because Mukuntuweap had very few visitors, however, the agents concluded their 1916 report with this pronouncement: “There is no occasion for the government to expend any money on this monument at this time.”⁴

In 1910, the American Civic Association, a preservation organization, had begun lobbying Interior Secretary Richard A. Ballinger to create a Park Bureau with direct oversight of national parks and monuments. Very little upkeep or protection was provided Mukuntuweap and other western parks. In 1911, for example, residents of Springdale complained to the GLO of

for the preservation of American antiquities

FIFTY-NINTH CONGRESS. SESS. I. CHS. 3060, 3061. 1906.

225

CHAP. 3060.—An Act For the preservation of American antiquities.

June 8, 1906.

[S. 4698.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who shall appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity, situated on lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States, without the permission of the Secretary of the Department of the Government having jurisdiction over the lands on which said antiquities are situated, shall, upon conviction, be fined in a sum of not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for a period of not more than ninety days, or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 2. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected: *Provided*, That when such objects are situated upon a tract covered by a bona fide unperfected claim or held in private ownership, the tract, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the proper care and management of the object, may be relinquished to the Government, and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept the relinquishment of such tracts in behalf of the Government of the United States.

SEC. 3. That permits for the examination of ruins, the excavation of archaeological sites, and the gathering of objects of antiquity upon the lands under their respective jurisdictions may be granted by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and War to institutions which they may deem properly qualified to conduct such examination, excavation, or gathering, subject to such rules and regulations as they may prescribe: *Provided*, That the examinations, excavations, and gatherings are undertaken for the benefit of reputable museums, universities, colleges, or other recognized scientific or educational institutions, with a view to increasing the knowledge of such objects, and that the gatherings shall be made for permanent preservation in public museums.

SEC. 4. That the Secretaries of the Departments aforesaid shall make and publish from time to time uniform rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Approved, June 8, 1906.

[Public, No. 209.]
American antiquities.
Penalty for unauthorized excavations, etc.

Setting apart of historic, etc., public lands.

Proviso.
Relinquishment of private claims.

Permits for excavations, etc.

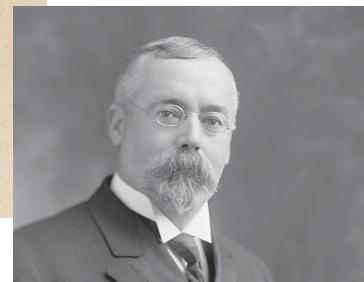
Proviso.
Preservation in museums.

Regulations.

ously ill, and his assistant director, Horace M. Albright, served in his place until the spring of 1918.⁶

During the mid-1910s appreciation for the scenic and economic potential of Mukuntuweap was awakened through occasional promotional tours. After visiting the monument on one such tour, Daniel S. Spencer, passenger agent for Union Pacific Railroad, was so impressed that he told Utah's governor,

William Spry,



unsightly driftwood that clogged the canyon's river and cluttered its banks. Residents were asked to remove the wood themselves and were told they could use it for fuel; residents used some of the wood for revetment of the canyon's wagon road.⁵

During the 1911 Congress, Utah's Reed Smoot introduced a bill to create a Park Bureau—later becoming the National Park Service. But the bill stalled until late 1915, when railroad officials joined park advocates and preservationists in lobbying for its passage. In August 1916 President Woodrow Wilson was finally able to sign it into law.

Stephen T. Mather, former assistant Secretary of the Interior, was appointed the first National Park Director. Shortly after his appointment, however, he became seri-

that he would do all in his power to promote Utah tourism if Spry would promise to hasten improvement of the road between Lund and the monument. Spry kept his promise, and one of Zion's slot canyons was later named Spry Canyon in his honor.

A prominent early visitor to the part was Frederick Fisher, a Methodist minister who, with three associates, spent several days in Zion Canyon in 1916. Fisher named several of the canyon's prominent landmarks, including its two best-known sites. When he saw the first of these, he proclaimed, "Only an angel could land on it"—and the name Angels Landing stuck. When he saw the second, a stately and magnificent white mountain, Fisher



reverently imagined it to symbolize the throne of God and called it the Great White Throne. Fisher also named the Three Patriarchs for the “three fathers” of the Old Testament—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.⁷

Today, climbers who climb the Big Wall and hikers who, clinging to steel cables embedded in the rock, hike the steep, precipitous trail to the top of Angels Landing are awestruck by stunning full-circle views of the valley 1,488 feet below. While there is no trail to the top of the throne, in 1927 W. H. W. Evans became the first white American to climb to its summit. He fell on his descent but miraculously survived—and his rescue led to the discovery of Hidden Canyon, now accessible to park visitors via the subsequently developed East Rim Trail.⁸

For more than half a century after the early 1860s, local stockmen grazed cattle within Zion Canyon. But in 1917 acting park director Albright refused to renew grazing permits, declaring that the whole of Mukuntuweap had come to resemble “a cattle pen.”⁹ In August 1918 Walter Reusch became the first custodian of the

monument, and that fall he oversaw the installation of a woven-wire fence at the monument’s entrance to keep livestock out. Local stockmen pledged their cooperation, and soon there was marked recovery of native grasses, ferns, and wildflowers within the monument.¹⁰



In 1917, hoping to stimulate tourist visits to the monument, officials of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad had advanced funds to William W. Wylie to establish tourist campsites at Mukuntuweap and to Gronway and Chauncey Parry of Cedar City to incorporate the National Parks Transportation and Camping Company.¹¹ Such endeavors were not immediately profitable, partly due to the US entry into World War I.

The railroad's passenger agent, Douglas White, became a close friend of Horace Albright. In September 1917, at White's invitation, Albright traveled with White by rail from Los Angeles to Utah. After arriving at Lund, the two went by automobile to Cedar City, where they were met by state senator Henry W. Lunt and local rancher Richard A Thorley, a self-proclaimed tour guide of southern Utah's backcountry.¹² Chauncey Parry drove the four men in one of the National Touring Cars to the canyon, using an "improved" road Albright later described as being "perfectly terrible." Arriving at Mukuntuweap Canyon late that afternoon, the group was drawn to a large red mountain northwest of the Virgin River Narrows. White named the formation the Temple of Sinawava, a Paiute word meaning "Coyote Spirit."¹³

Despite the late hour, the men determined to hike partway up the Narrows, a thin gorge—sometimes barely twenty feet wide between the sheer thousand-foot sandstone walls on either side—carved during the past million years by the Virgin River. As the men neared the end of their hike, a rising full moon lit the canyon walls. Albright said he was "overwhelmed by the loveliness of the valley and the beauty of the canyon." He left feeling sure the site was of national park caliber.¹⁴

Albright then traveled to Salt Lake City to meet with Governor Simon Bamberger and *Salt Lake Tribune* editor John F. Fitzpatrick, telling them that if Utah would provide a good highway connecting the southern border of the monument with the Arrowhead Trail Highway, Congress would provide for the construction and maintenance of a first-class road within the monument. Albright believed the only thing blocking Utah's potential prominence among the

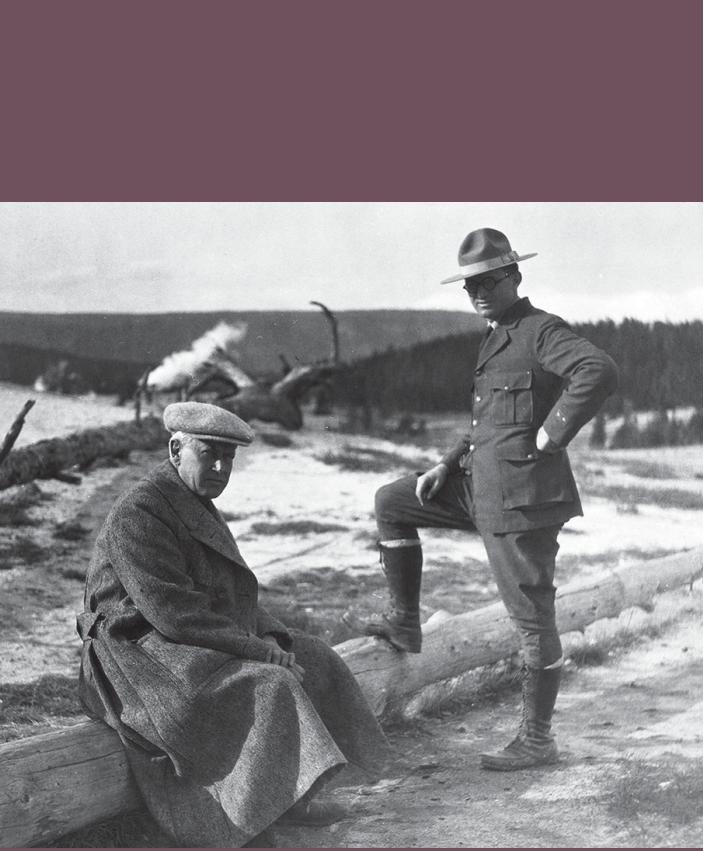


Gronway and Chauncey Parry

*Utah Parks Company touring car,
Zion National Park*



Horace M. Albright



Stephen T. Mather (left and below), the first director of the National Park Service, with his assistant, Horace Albright, at Yellowstone in the 1920s.



nation's "tourism states" was its roads.¹⁵ Following this meeting Fitzpatrick became what park officials termed a Zion supporter "without peer anywhere."¹⁶

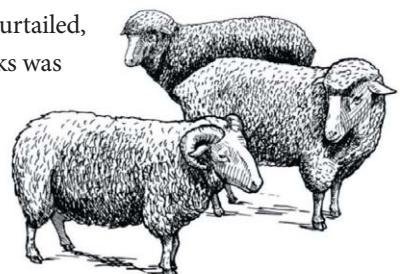
Albright wired Mather to report his visit to Mukuntuweap, but his report was so glowing that an incredulous Mather wrote back asking Albright if he had fallen into the hands of some slick chamber of commerce director who had sold him a bill of goods, or if he was simply drunk. Mather had never before received such reports of the monument's scenery, but at Albright's urging, Mather prepared a request to President Wilson to enlarge the monument to incorporate other wonders around it.¹⁷

In February 1918

Robert Sterling Yard, a railroad officer and a member of the American Civic Association, requested that the name of the park be changed from Mukuntuweap to Zion Canyon National Monument. A month later, President Wilson signed a proclamation enlarging the park to 76,800 acres and changing its name to Zion National Monument.¹⁸ Almost immediately Albright, Smoot, Mather, and others began working to secure national park status for Zion, an objective dependent on the success of a number of negotiations between the federal government and state and private entities.

State-owned school section land within the park was traded for public-domain lands outside the park. The National Park Service was authorized to purchase at fair market value patented private lands within the new park boundaries.¹⁹ Sheep grazing within the park was curtailed, and the Cable Mountain Draw Works was required to follow new road-use policies within the park and to bear appropriate responsibility for road damage and repair. Signs inside the park were restricted; signs painted on rocks—such as those advertising St. George's Arrowhead Hotel—were banned.²⁰ Senator Smoot's bill to establish Zion National Park passed Congress and was signed by President Wilson on November 19, 1919.²¹

Interestingly, Mather had approved the application for national park status for Zion without ever having visited the canyon. Shortly after Wilson signed the bill, however, Mather





agreed to join Walter Reusch, the park's custodian, on a trip to southern Utah to finally see what he had supported. Park Service Inspector Herbert Gleason, also a writer and photographer, accompanied Mather to record his views and impressions. Stephen Mather immediately fell in love with Zion.²²

At the dedication of Zion as a national park on September 15, 1920, speeches were delivered by former Utah governor William Spry, Church of Jesus Christ president Heber J. Grant, Senator Reed Smoot, Park Service director Stephen Mather, and others. These speakers expressed admiration for the natural wonders of the park, eulogized Utah pioneers, and conveyed optimism that the new park would contribute significantly to the economic development of Utah.²³

Nevertheless, it took many years to attract significant numbers of visitors to Zion and to reap economic

benefits from such tourism. The annual number of visitors to the park increased only slightly during the late 1910s, given the United States' entry into World War I in April 1917; the 1918-1919 flu pandemic and a national recession immediately followed the end of the war.

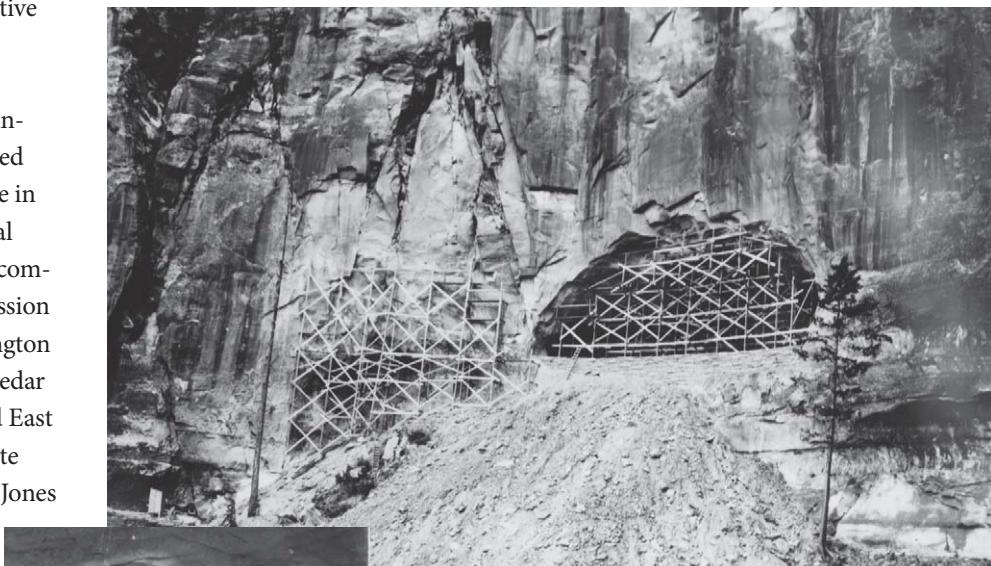
Through 1920, park visitors were limited mainly to local Utahns—or to out-of-staters who had the time, money, and adventuresome spirit to make the trip. Artists and photographers who captured images of the canyon had limited markets for their work. Given the poor condition of southern Utah's roads and the park's general inaccessibility, Zion remained a hard tourist sell.²⁴

Stephen Mather made at least one trip to Zion each year between 1919 and 1929.²⁵ On his 1921 visit, he brought *Saturday Evening Post* writer Emerson Hough and famed naturalist Edmund Heller, hoping they would share his enthusiasm for Zion's beauty and help publicize it. Because Mather was planning an advertising campaign

based on a “tourist circle” linking Zion, Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, he and his guests traveled to each spot in turn. On their return from the North Rim, the party stopped at Pipe Springs in northern Arizona, which had been a Latter-day Saint pioneer fort and cattle ranch. Mather loved it and, seeing it as an added component of his tourist circle, arranged to buy it from private rancher Charles Heaton for \$5,250.²⁶ Pipe Springs was declared a national monument by President Warren G. Harding in May 1923 and was placed under administrative authority of Zion National Park.²⁷

Friend T. Scoyer, the first superintendent of Zion, was admonished by Mather to follow his example in cultivating close relationships with local citizens. Scoyer joined a local citizens committee to lobby the State Road Commission to fund the first paved roads in Washington County. He enlisted Randall Jones, a Cedar City photographer who had influenced East Coast railroad officials with his exquisite slideshow of Zion, as a fellow lobbyist. Jones also worked with Mather to strike an agreement among Kane and Washington counties, the state of Utah, and the federal government to construct the Zion-Mt. Carmel tunnel and highway—a project crucial to Zion’s developing tourism. At a cost of \$2 million, the 5,200-foot-long tunnel was begun in 1927 and completed in 1930; the project employed 210 men during the course of its construction.²⁸

During 1923 and 1924 Union Pacific and its subsidiary Utah Parks Company constructed a thirty-eight-mile railroad from Lund to



ZION-MOUNT CARMEL HIGHWAY TUNNEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, TWO MILES EAST OF ZION CANYON SCENIC DRIVE, SPRINGDALE, WASHINGTON COUNTY

Cedar City and a modern passenger station in Cedar City. They also built a bus garage and purchased and remodeled the Hotel El Escalante in Cedar City. Finally, they constructed a lodge and forty-six cabins at Zion and financed forty eleven-passenger auto-stages to convey visitors from Cedar City to Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, the Grand Canyon’s North Rim, Pipe Springs, and Zion.

Annual numbers of visitors to Zion did not increase dramatically until the late 1940s when post-World War II prosperity created both means and time for the American middle class to travel and enjoy other previously out-of-reach leisure activities. From that point through the present, annual tourism at Zion has steadily increased. Indeed, by the late 1990s park officials warned that Zion's three million visitors per year were threatening park ecology, and in 2000 a mandatory shuttle system was instituted inside the park.

As Zion National Park celebrated its centennial in 2019, it was visited by just under 4.5 million people from across the world. The cooperative work of individuals, businesses, politicians, and government leaders and entities has created, nurtured, and preserved Zion as a celebrated and loved national treasure—a treasure that will continue to bless and inspire its visitors in centuries to come. □

1 Leo K. Snow, General Description, *Utah Field Notes*, v. 102 (1908), copy in Historical Files, Curator's Office, National Park Service, Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah (hereafter Zion NP).

2 William Howard Taft, Mukuntuweep Proclamation, 11 Jul 1909, copy at Zion NP.

3 G. E. Hair to General Land Office, Washington, DC,
(1914), copy at Zion NP.

4 Report of Special Agent T. E. Hunt to General Land Office Commissioner, Washington, DC, 12 Jul 1916, copy at Zion NP.

5 Report of Special Agent T. E. Hunt to Mr. R. B. Marshall, 3 Nov 1916, copy at Zion NP.

6 Memo, Horace M. Albright to Mr. Chatelain, 4 Aug 1933, 2, copy at Zion NP.

7 Albright to Chatelain, 1. On first seeing what would

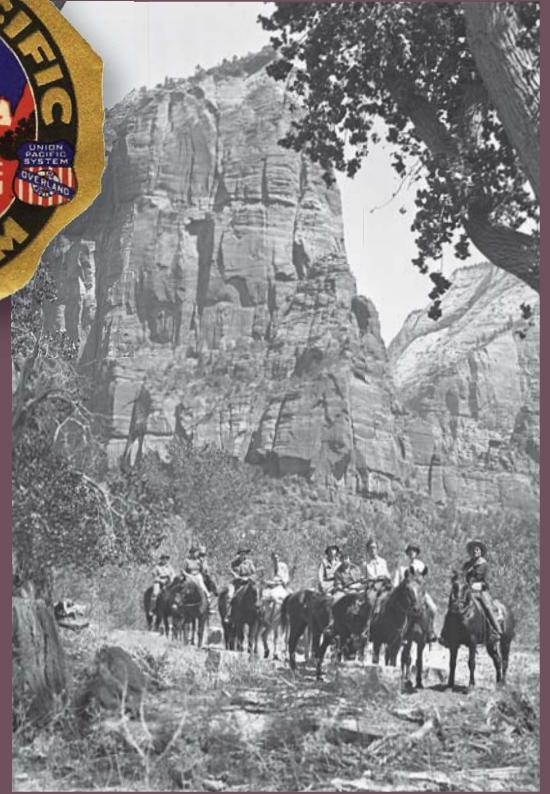
later be called the Great White Throne, Clarence Dutton allegedly said, "There is no name provided for such an object, nor is it worthwhile to invent one."

⁸ Wayne K. Hinton, "W. H. W. Evans: the First Man to Climb Zion's Throne," *Southwest Utah* (Fall 1994): 10, 2.

9 Horace M. Albright to Isaac Langston, 1 Oct 1917,
+ Zia, NP

10 "Report of the Director of National Park Service to the Secretary of Interior for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918," copy at Zion NP. Walter Ruesch was appointed monument custodian in Aug 1917.

11 Albright to Chatelain, 3; Secretary of Interior Franklin K. Lane to Senator Henry Myer, Chairman of Commit-



West Rim Trail, Angels Landing, 1934

tee on Public Lands, U. S. Senate, 27 Dec 1919, copy at Zion NP.

12 Albright to Chatelain, 2; Horace M. Albright to P.P. Patraw, day letter, 19 Jun 1933, RG. 79NPS Central Classified File 1933-39, 88-885-1 National Archives, Washington, DC. Because of his deep appreciation for and knowledge of the monument, Thorley often led officials on tours of the canyon and was thereby a great help in the eventual establishment of Zion National Park.

13 The Cable Mountain Draw Works was designed and constructed by David Flanigan of Springdale, Utah.

14 Albright to Chatelain, 3.

15 Report of Albright's Utah visit, *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 Sep 1917.

16 Eviend T. Scoyer, typescript of interview with Lucy C. Schiefer, Springdale, Utah, 28 Jan 1971, 26, copy at Zion NP; Albright to Chatelain, 4.

17 Robert Sterling Yard to Stephen Mather, memorandum, 20 Feb 1918, copy at Zion NP.

18 The enlargement brought inside park boundaries the two most notable features on the east side of Zion, Checkerboard Mesa and the East Temple.

19 Horace Albright to Reed Smoot, 18 Nov 1918, copy at Zion NP.

20 Horace Albright to Walter Ruesch, 9 Sep 1918, copy at Zion NP.

21 Woodrow Wilson to Secretary Lane, 20 Nov 1919, copy at Zion NP.

22 Albright to Chatelain, 1.

23 John Barton Payne, Secretary of Interior to Stephen Mather, 15 Sep 1920, copy at Zion NP.

24 Annual Report of the Director, 24 Sep 1920, copy at Zion NP.

25 Albright to Chatelain, 1.

26 Stephen Mather to General Superintendent, Southern Utah Group, 14 Aug 1969, LS-4, copy at Zion NP; "Water Matters," Pipe Springs (1969), copy at Zion National Park Water Matters Collection, Curator's Office, National Park Service, Zion National Park. Sixteen individuals and organizations donated the purchase cost; no federal monies were expended.

27 Albright to Chatelain, 1.

28 E. T. Scoyer to Director, 1 Aug 1928, copy at Zion NP.



Senator Reed Smoot

AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZION NATIONAL PARK

BY THOMAS G. ALEXANDER

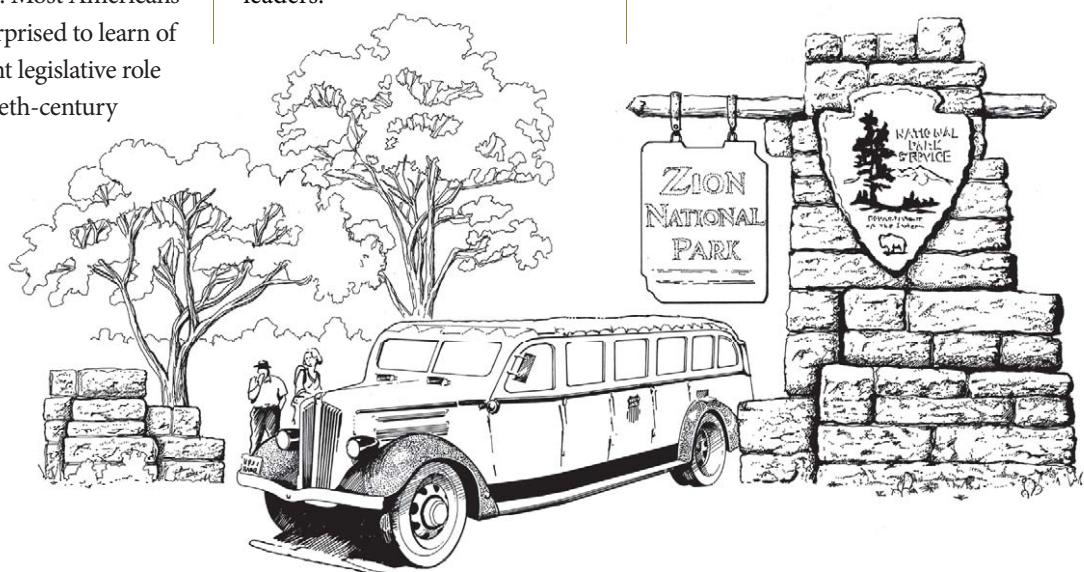
For most Americans with knowledge of the nation's history, Utah Senator Reed Smoot's name likely brings to mind the nearly four-year debate (beginning in early 1904) over seating Smoot in the US Senate due to his high-profile position in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or, more significantly, his role in drafting and sponsoring the controversial Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930. Most Americans would thus be surprised to learn of Smoot's significant legislative role as an early twentieth-century environmentalist who pushed for the founding of the National Park Service and the creation of two national parks in Utah, Zion and Bryce Canyon. This

article focuses on Smoot's role in the establishment of Zion as Utah's first and the country's fourteenth national park.¹

Smoot as Businessman

Smoot's background prepared him for the thirty-year role he would play in Washington, DC. Born in Salt Lake City in 1862, the son of Kentucky native Abraham O. Smoot and Norwegian immigrant Anne Kerstine Morrison, Reed grew up surrounded by Utah's foremost political, business, and religious leaders.

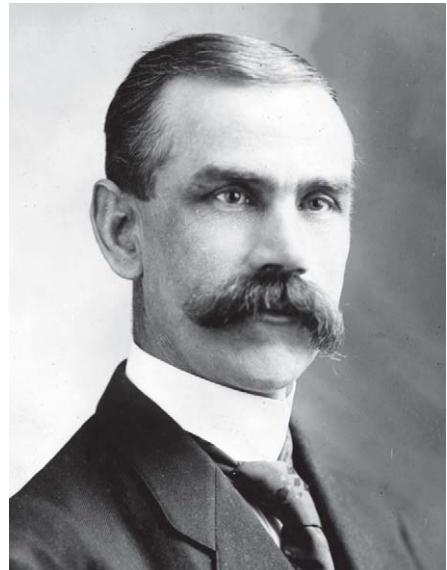
Reed's own father Abraham served as mayor of Salt Lake City for ten years until 1872, as mayor of Provo for fourteen years, and as president of the Utah Stake of Zion in Provo for more than twenty years until his death in 1895. A successful businessman engaged in retail and wholesale trade and woolen manufacturing, Abraham helped finance construction of the Provo Tabernacle and the first independent building housing Brigham Young Academy, the predecessor of Brigham Young University.



Following in his father's footsteps, Reed Smoot had determined by age twenty to pursue a business career. Over the next twenty years, Smoot invested in a cooperative enterprise, a bank, a lumber yard and a coal yard, sheep ranching operations, and mining ventures. By the turn of the century, Reed had amassed a large fortune. He was an intelligent and capable orator and, like his father, became involved in politics. Although he was initially a member of the Latter-day-Saint-supported People's Party, Smoot collaborated with businesspeople and lawyers in Utah County to separate Utah's political party system from religion-based antagonism. Determined to promote the acceptance of the two national parties in Utah, Reed subscribed to two New York newspapers, one Democratic and the other Republican in their views. Much

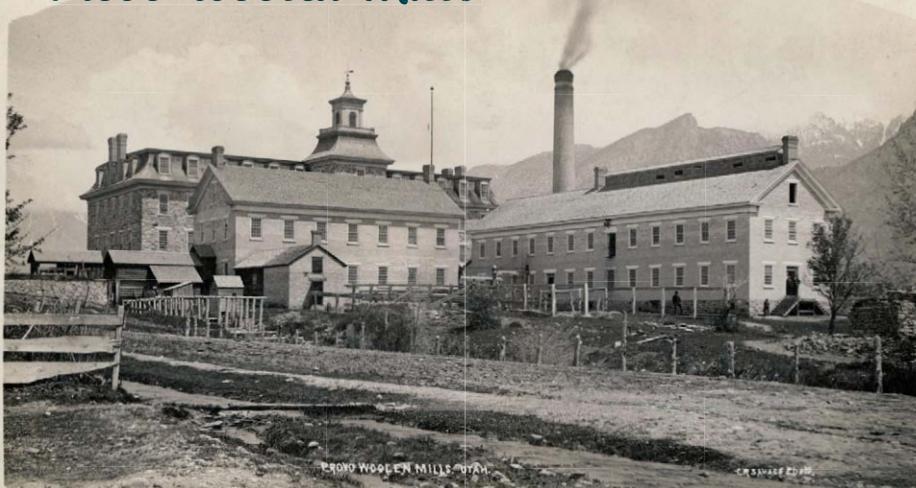
to his Democrat father's horror, Reed helped organize—and then joined—Utah's Republican Party. Reed's actions cemented alliances with Utah politicians outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and helped set in motion Utah's first modern political machine.

At the same time, Smoot also accepted more responsibility in the Church of Jesus Christ. For ten months in 1890 and 1891, he served a proselytizing mission in England, but returned home to assume management of the Provo Woolen Mills when his father's health declined. When Abraham died in 1895 President Wilford Woodruff called Reed as a counselor to Edward Partridge, the newly sustained president of the Utah Stake. In 1900 Smoot was called to the apostleship, the Church's second-highest governing body.



A popular political figure, **SMOOT SECURED ELECTION BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE IN 1903**, the constitutional method of election in Utah at that time. But the election to the US Senate of a member of the Church's Quorum of the Twelve ignited a firestorm of anti-Mormon anger. A national cabal of political, business, and religious leaders tried to have Smoot unseated, arguing that his position as an important leader of a Church still apparently tied to polygamy rendered him unfit to take the required oath to defend and sustain the US Constitution. A very public four-year political battle ensued. Proving himself to be a remarkably shrewd politician, Smoot won the support of

Provo Woolen Mills



President Theodore Roosevelt and the Senate's Republican leadership. Despite the investigating committee's recommendation to expel him, the majority of senators in 1907 voted to let him keep his seat, an office that, through a series of reelections, he would hold until 1933.

Early in life, Smoot had developed ideals and habits facilitating the role he was to play in shaping the environment of his home state. He had seen firsthand how appropriate urban planning positively shaped the growth of Latter-day Saint settlements. Small communities and cities alike were laid out with large lots, wide streets, spaces for parks and other public lands, and central districts housing schools, government offices, courthouses, and other public buildings. As his business career prospered, Smoot learned the value of economy and efficiency. He cultivated contacts in state and regional business communities—and especially within transportation and service industries. His relationships with executives of the Union Pacific railroad would prove especially useful in the establishment of Utah's first national parks.

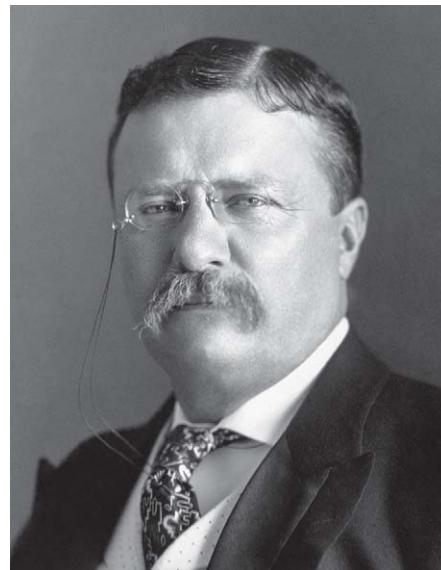
As a younger man Smoot had also witnessed the disastrous consequences of the unregulated, chaotic, and often irresponsible competition characterizing Utah's ranching, mining, and lumber industries. As an investor in both lumber and sheep, Smoot had learned that loggers, miners, and

ranchers tended to ignore federal ownership of the very lands from which they harvested timber or minerals or on which they allowed their sheep or cattle to graze. Thus, Utah's federally owned lands were marred by overgrazing and denuded watersheds; bare slopes, in turn, fell prey to summer thunderstorms and resultant rock-mud floods that turned beautiful mountain forests and meadows into desiccated wastes.²

Other political and religious leaders in Utah were seeing the same problems as Smoot; many began promoting the protection of Utah's natural resources. Following the federal government's lead in establishing forest reserves after the passage of the General Revision Act in 1891, Utah Governor Heber M. Wells determined in 1896 to withdraw all state lands within the reserves from sale or transfer.³

Smoot and the National Park Service

In 1905 Smoot was appointed to the Senate Public Lands Committee; in 1912 he became the committee's chairman. During a crucial developmental period of national environmental policies, Smoot was able to influence conservation issues of interest to Utah and other western states. His active support of the Forest Service and the designation of national forests and other conservation programs led



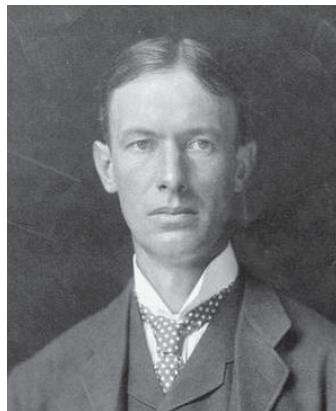
PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT TO APPOINT SMOOT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREST RESERVATIONS

at the Conference of Conservation Commissions in 1908. Smoot gave one of the principal addresses at the conference.⁴

Smoot understood that the West's forests, streams, canyons, and geologic formations held enormous aesthetic, geological, and biological importance. This led him to favor protection and efficient management of important natural resources and wilderness areas; he also foresaw the value of promoting controlled tourism to the nation's parks and scenic wonders. On December 7, 1911, Smoot introduced Senate Bill 3463 to establish a Bureau of National Parks within the Interior Department and to consolidate all national parks and monuments under that bureau. Smoot's bill had the

support of President William Howard Taft and Interior Secretary Walter L. Fisher, and although it failed to pass, it proved to be the opening salvo of repeated legislative efforts to focus the country's attention on its many spectacular wilderness areas and natural resources.⁵ Shortly thereafter, Smoot joined with John Muir, members of the Sierra Club, and several fellow senators in futile opposition to San Francisco's plans to dam the Tuolumne River inside Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley.⁶

In 1916 Smoot introduced Senate Bill 38 in another effort to create the National Park Service. Serving as Senate sponsor of the act, Smoot nevertheless sidetracked his own bill to gain support of the House, favoring the



HOUSE BILL INTRODUCED BY WILLIAM KENT OF CALIFORNIA.

Horace Albright, an assistant to Interior Secretary Franklin K. Lane, played a crucial role in formulating and promoting the legislation. Smoot proposed amendments to the Kent bill allowing the director of the Park Service considerable latitude in the payment of salaries, in prohibiting grazing in Yellowstone National Park, and in allowing superintendents of other national parks to prohibit grazing when it conflicted with the interests of tourists. Although there was initial opposition in the House, the conference committee eventually agreed to the amended Kent bill, and both houses finally passed it. The Wilson administration rewarded Smoot's role in the victory by inviting him to speak following Secretary Lane at the inauguration of the National Park Service on January 2, 1917.⁷

Smoot and Zion National Park

Smoot's concern for the protection and orderly management of forests, watersheds, and wilderness areas was national in scope, but he instinctively was partial to the natural attractions and resources of his home state. He had long been passionate about a valley

Calendar No. 599. H. R. 15522.

[Report No. 662.]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 30 (calendar day, JULY 3), 1916.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

JULY 7 (calendar day, JULY 12), 1916.

Reported by Mr. Smoot, with an amendment.

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*.]

AN ACT

To establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes.

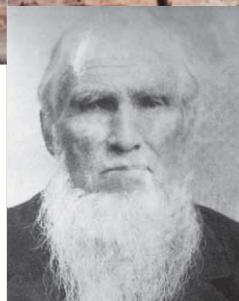
1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
2 *That there is hereby created in the Department of the Interior a service to be called the National Park Service, which*
3 *shall be under the charge of a director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary and who shall receive a salary of \$4,500 per annum. There shall also be appointed by the Secretary the following assistants and other employees*

Signed into law on August 25, 1916, **H. R. 15522** stated that the National Park Service (NPS) "shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations . . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

surrounded by spectacular sandstone monoliths on the North Fork of the Virgin River, a canyon valley that Latter-day Saint pioneers had explored and briefly settled in the 1860s and 1870s. This area would eventually become Zion National Park.⁸

In 1862, Isaac Behunin homesteaded in the canyon near the present site of Zion Lodge. Several years afterward, William Heap and John Rolf established farms nearby. Behunin called the canyon "Little Zion," but by 1874 he and the others had all resettled elsewhere.⁹ In 1879, William R. Crawford homesteaded on Oak Creek near the site of the present Zion Museum (formerly the visitor center). In the early years of the twentieth century, Crawford's was the major private holding remaining in the valley.¹⁰

In 1872, following two successful journeys down the Colorado River, John Wesley Powell had explored the canyon and was awestruck by its beauty. Powell called the canyon "Mukuntuweap" (pronounced *mew-kun-tyoo-wep*) which he said meant "straight canyon" in Paiute.¹¹ Other alleged meanings of "mukuntuweap" include "straight river," "Muggins' farm" ("Muggins" was a nickname early whites in the area gave a Paiute who had a garden at the canyon's entrance), and "dwelling of the Great Spirit"; recent research suggest that, pronounced as *huh-*



William R. Crawford homestead (above), Isaac Behunin (left)

cut-yuu-wep, Mukuntuweap possibly derives

from a Paiute phrase meaning "red soil" or "red country."¹²

National interest in the beauties of Zion Canyon followed Powell's 1872 visit to and publicizing of the area. In 1873 one of Powell's associates, John K. "Jack" Hillers, circulated his photographs of Zion Canyon and its prominent features. In 1882, Clarence E. Dutton, another of Powell's friends, made a geological survey of the region.¹³ And in 1903 Frederick S. Dellenbaugh, an associate on Powell's second Colorado River voyage, made oil paintings of Zion Canyon which he exhibited at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. He also published an article on the canyon in the January 1904 issue of *Scribner's*.

As the Crawford family continued to farm in the canyon, entrepreneurs took advantage of Zion's lumber resources. In 1900 David Flanigan ran a cable up

Cable Mountain east of Zion Canyon and north of the Great White Throne and began cabling logs from its rim to the canyon floor. In 1904 he also set up a sawmill near the base of the Great White Throne.¹⁴ About ten years later, Frank Petty Jr. purchased the lumbering operation and offered rides on the cable to foolhardy tourists.¹⁵

In 1909, under the Antiquities Act of 1906, President Taft designated the canyon as Mukuntuweap National Monument. In urging Taft's proclamation, newly installed Secretary of the Interior Richard A. Ballinger said that "views into the canyon from its rim are exceeded in beauty and grandeur only by the similar views into the Grand Canyon of the Colorado."¹⁶ The canyon's designation as a national monument attracted considerable local, regional, and national attention. In October 1913, Utah's Governor William Spry made his first visit to Mukuntuweap, riding on horseback and trailed by a large entourage of local citizens.¹⁷

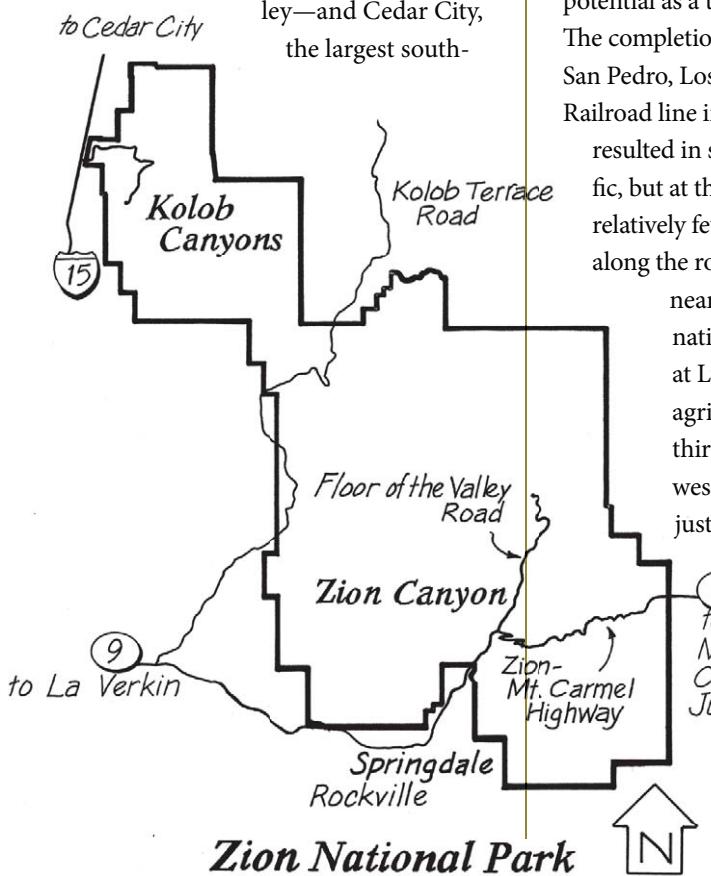
People on the hardscrabble farms in the Virgin River Valley south and west of the monument understood the value of this potential tourist attraction in their backyard. Still, they realized that

WITHOUT ADE- QUATE ROADS—

and at that time *adequate* meant graded dirt roads as replacements for rocky livestock and wagon trails—

FEW TOURISTS WOULD COME.

David Hirschi, Latter-day Saint bishop of the nearby Rockville Ward, took the lead as president of a five-county roads convention held in July 1914 in Hurricane. The towns of the Virgin River Valley—and Cedar City, the largest south-



ern Utah community on the Salt Lake-Los Angeles route eventually known as US 91—agreed that a suitable road to Zion Canyon was needed, pledging to help support its construction. In 1916 Smoot again collaborated with Horace Albright of the Department of the Interior to secure a federal appropriation of \$15,000 to help finance this “wagon road or highway” through Mukuntuweap National Monument.¹⁸

Significantly, the interests of Virgin River Valley people like David Hirschi coincided with those of influential business leaders—including several from the Union Pacific Railroad—who saw Mukuntuweap's potential as a tourist attraction. The completion of Union Pacific's San Pedro, Los Angeles, & Salt Lake Railroad line in January 1905 had resulted in steady passenger traffic, but at that point there were relatively few tourist attractions along the route. Because the

nearest rail access to the national monument was at Lund, Utah, a tiny agricultural community thirty-eight miles northwest of Cedar City and just over one

hundred miles from Zion Canyon, plans were discussed to transport tourists from Lund to the canyon by way of Cedar City. In the meantime, Douglas White of UP's Los Angeles office used the railroad's influence to promote highway improvement between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. Working with public and private groups, White in 1915 designated the improved road that became US Highway 91—and that generally approximated the later

route of Interstate 15—as

“The Arrowhead Route.”¹⁹



In connection with planned tourism endeavors, UP sponsored several excursions into Mukuntuweap for dignitaries. In 1916 railroad officials took Governor Spry and Henry W. Lunt of Cedar City, a state senator and also a state road commissioner, to the monument. In 1917, guided by Lunt and Cedar City rancher R. A. Thorley, the UP's Douglas White brought Horace Albright to Mukuntuweap. The beauty of the canyon so overwhelmed Albright that he telegraphed Director Mather to explain that the monument was certainly of “national park caliber.” Mather was dubious about the claim, but he later visited the canyon and agreed with Albright.²⁰

As construction of roads progressed, entrepreneurs from California and Utah began setting up tourist facilities in the canyon. In April 1917, W. W. Wylie and

Zion National Park road building crew



his son Clinton W. Wylie—who had experience operating tourist accommodations in Yellowstone—partnered with Gronway R. Parry and his brother Chauncey, hotel and stage operators in Cedar City, to organize the National Park Transportation and Camping Company. Securing a concession with the help of Sen. Smoot and Utah Governor Simon Bamberger, their firm ran the Wylie Way tent camp in Zion Canyon and provided conveyance from the Lund railhead by way of Cedar City.²¹

By 1917 southern Utahns were requesting that two changes be made to Mukuntuweap National Monument. First, that the monument be enlarged to encompass crucial geologic and scenic features not included in Taff's proclamation. Second, that its name be changed to Zion in accordance with local usage stretching back more than half a century. Besides, "Mukuntuweap" was a name chosen by Powell and not by original Paiute inhabitants. William O. Tufts, the topographic

engineer in charge of highway construction at the monument, recommended several additional changes in his report to Mather.²²

Park Service officials and Senator Smoot lobbied President Wilson to support all recommended changes and improvements. The effort succeeded, and on March 18, 1918, Wilson issued an executive proclamation enlarging the preserve from 15,840 acres to 76,800 acres and changing its name to Zion National Monument.²³ But both the Park Service and Smoot believed this change was temporary, and, after consulting with Smoot and Mather in the fall of 1918, Director Albright drafted a bill granting Zion national park status and sent it to Smoot. Although Smoot introduced the bill almost immediately, it was too late in the session to advance it.

Meanwhile, after attempts in Congress spanning thirty-seven years, Grand Canyon National Park was created when Pres. Wilson signed the authorizing bill on

February 26, 1919. A week later, with Republicans again in control of the Senate, Smoot became chairman of the Senate Public Lands Committee for a second time.

Recognizing that political conditions were favorable for the preservation of public lands, Smoot reintroduced his bill to establish Zion National Park on May 20.

Interior Secretary Franklin K. Lane had written a letter in support of Smoot's previous bill, and Smoot included a copy of that letter in the Senate report on his bill. In the letter, Lane had emphasized the spectacular beauty of the canyon, its geological significance, and its accessibility to railroad and auto traffic.²⁴ The committee approved Smoot's bill on June 18, and on June 20, 1919, the bill passed the Senate without debate.²⁵

In the House of Representatives, Congressman James H. Mays, a Utah Democrat, reported the bill without amendment, and it came before the full House on the unanimous consent calendar. However, it did not have the same easy sledding there that it had enjoyed in the Senate. Mays, fellow Utah Congressman Milton Welling, and California Congressman John E. Raker all argued in favor. Opposition centered around the expense of acquiring privately-held or state-owned property within the park's boundaries. Ultimately the congressional conference committee that included Sen. Smoot recommended passage, and both houses finally

approved the report and passed the bill. President Wilson signed it on November 19, 1919, transforming Zion National Monument into Zion National Park.

Many people had supported the park's creation, including National Park Service officials, officers of the Union Pacific, and politicians from Utah and elsewhere. All wanted to attend the dedication on September 15, 1920. Smoot traveled from Salt Lake City to Lund by rail and then to Zion on "very bad" roads. His party included former Governor Spry and Union Pacific officials Dan Spencer and W. H. Comstock. They arrived on September 14 and spent the night at the Wylie camp. The next day Presi-

dent Heber J. Grant and Apostles Richard R. Lyman and George F. Richards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints arrived. Dedicatory services began at 10:30 am, with NPS Director Stephen Mather presiding.²⁶

SMOOT'S YEARS- LONG EFFORTS TO PROTECT, HONOR, AND PRESERVE ZION CANYON HAD FINALLY REACHED FRUITION.

Smoot now directed attention to another spectacular Utah wilderness area, Bryce Canyon, helping create the area as a national

monument in 1923 and national park in 1928. Throughout his tenure as senator, Smoot worked to strengthen the National Park Service and build support for America's national preserves, especially those in Utah. In the November 1932 elections, however, and in the midst of the Great Depression that many erroneously said was precipitated by the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, Senator Reed Smoot and other Republicans were swept from office by Franklin D. Roosevelt's Democratic landslide. Leaving the Senate at age 71 on March 4, 1933, after exactly thirty years in office, Smoot would devote his remaining years to religious service as one of the Church's senior apostles. He died on February 9, 1941, while visiting St. Petersburg, Florida, and was buried in his hometown of Provo. □



President Warren G. Harding riding horseback in Southern Utah with Senator Reed Smoot, 1923

1 Smoot's contributions to the creation of Bryce Canyon National Monument/National Park are summarized in the biography of Ebenezer Bryce, authored by Gale Bryce with Thomas Alexander, also in this issue of *Pioneer*.

2 Thomas G. Alexander, *The Rise of Multiple-Use Management in the Intermountain West: A History of Region 4 of the Forest Service* (1987), 6–11; Charles S. Peterson. "Albert F. Potter's Wasatch Survey, 1902: A Beginning for Public Management of Natural Resources in Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 39 (Summer 1971): 238–53.

3 Ibid.

4 "Address of Senator Reed Smoot, Chairman, 'Section of Forests before the Governors, State and National Conservation Commissions,' Washington, DC, December 10, 1908," Senate Report 594,

60th Congress, second session (1908) ser. 5407; Thomas G. Alexander, "Senator Reed Smoot and Western Land Policy, 1905–1920," *Arizona and the West* 13 (Autumn 1971): 249.

5 Senate Report 676, 62d Congress, second session (1911), ser. 6121; *Congressional Record*, 62d Congress, second session (1911), 69.

6 Alexander, "Smoot and Western Land Policy," 253.

7 *Congressional Record*, 64th Congress, first session (1916) 13,004–05; Reed Smoot, "Diary," Reed Smoot Collection, MSS 1187, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, HBLL, Brigham Young U, 12 Jul and 5 Aug 1916, 2 Jan 1917 (hereafter Smoot Diary); Horace M. Albright and Robert Cahn, *The Birth of the National Park Service* (1985), 34–43.

8 Angus M. Woodbury, "A History of Southern Utah and Its National Parks," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 12 (Jul-Oct 1944); Dena S. Markoff, "An Administrative History: Decision-Making That Shaped Zion National Park, 1909 to 1981," typescript (1982), copy in Historical Files, Curator's Office, National Park Service, Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah.

9 Woodbury 155–8, 161.

10 J. L. Crawford, *Zion Album: A Nostalgic History of Zion Canyon* (1986), 36–8.

11 John Wesley Powell, "An Overland Trip to the Grand Cañon," *Scribner's* 10 (Oct 1875): 663.

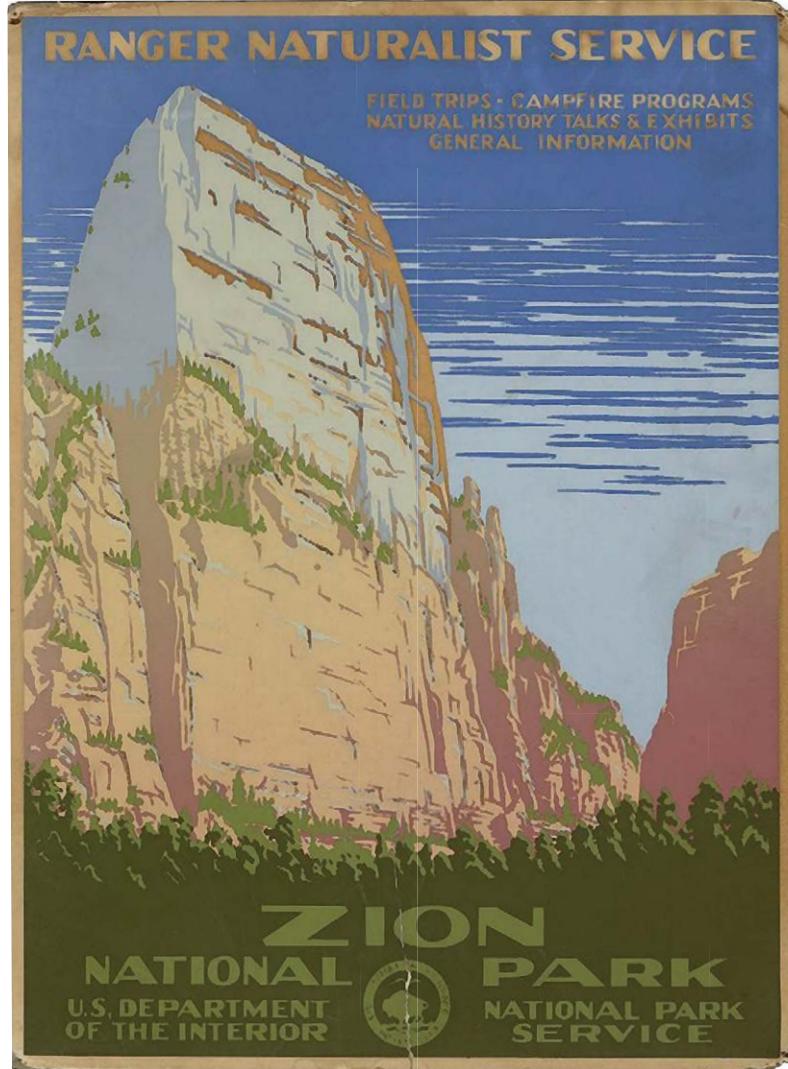
12 Nicolas Brulliard, "How Mukuntuweap National Monument Became One of the Nation's Most Popular Parks," *National Parks Conservation Association*, 15 Mar 2018, online; Woodbury 114.

13 Clarence E. Dutton, *Tertiary History of the Grand Cañon District, With Atlas* (1882).

14 Woodbury 162–4.

15 Ibid.

16 Richard A. Ballinger to William Howard Taft, 31 Jul 1909, Zion Codex, vol 1, 1908–1919, Zion National Park.



17 Woodbury 195–6.

18 Ibid.; Smoot Diary, 8 Sep 1916, 39. In 1917 Albright became assistant director of the National Park Service, working under Stephen T. Mather, and a short time later was appointed superintendent of Yellowstone National Park (Horace M. Albright to H. Stanley Hinrichs, 27 Apr 1917, Zion Codex, vol. 1, 1908–1919; Albright and Cahn 51–2, 77–80).

19 Edward Leo Lyman, "The Arrowhead Trails Highway," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 67.3 (1999): 242–3.

20 Markoff 29–30; Woodbury 199–200; Albright and Cahn 63.

21 "Articles of Incorporation of the National Park Transportation and Camping Company," 14 Apr 1917, Zion National Park. Regarding business arrangements between the Parry brothers and Wylie,

see Markoff 28–9; Woodbury 199–203.

22 William O. Tufts to Stephen T. Mather, 5 Jan 1917, Zion Codex, vol. 1, 1908–1919.

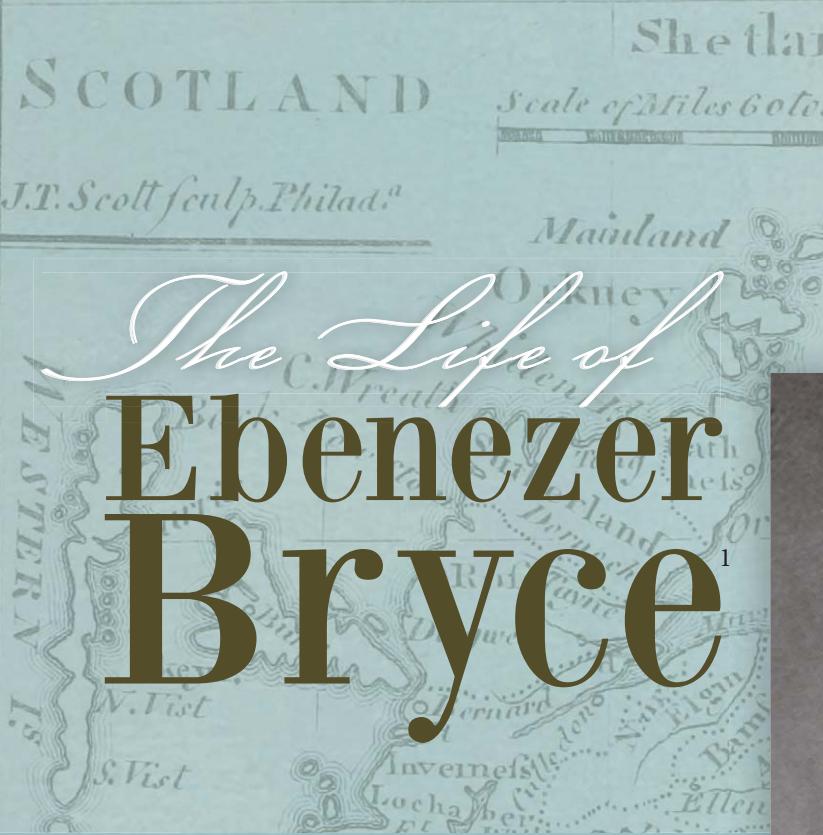
23 Albright and Cahn 84–5.

24 Franklin K. Lane to Henry L. Myers, 27 Dec 1918; Franklin K. Lane to Reed Smoot, 12 Jun 1919, Senate Report 22, 66th Congress, first session (1919), ser. 7590; *Congressional Record*, 66th Congress, first session (1919), 60.

25 *Congressional Record*, 66th Congress, first session (1919), 1425.

26 Smoot Diary, 13–15 Sep 1920; Walter Ruesch to Stephen T. Mather, 19 Sep 1920; Dan S. Spencer to Horace M. Albright, 22 Sep 1920; *Los Angeles Times*, 17 Sep 1920, untitled clipping, Zion Codex, vol. 2, 1920–1925.





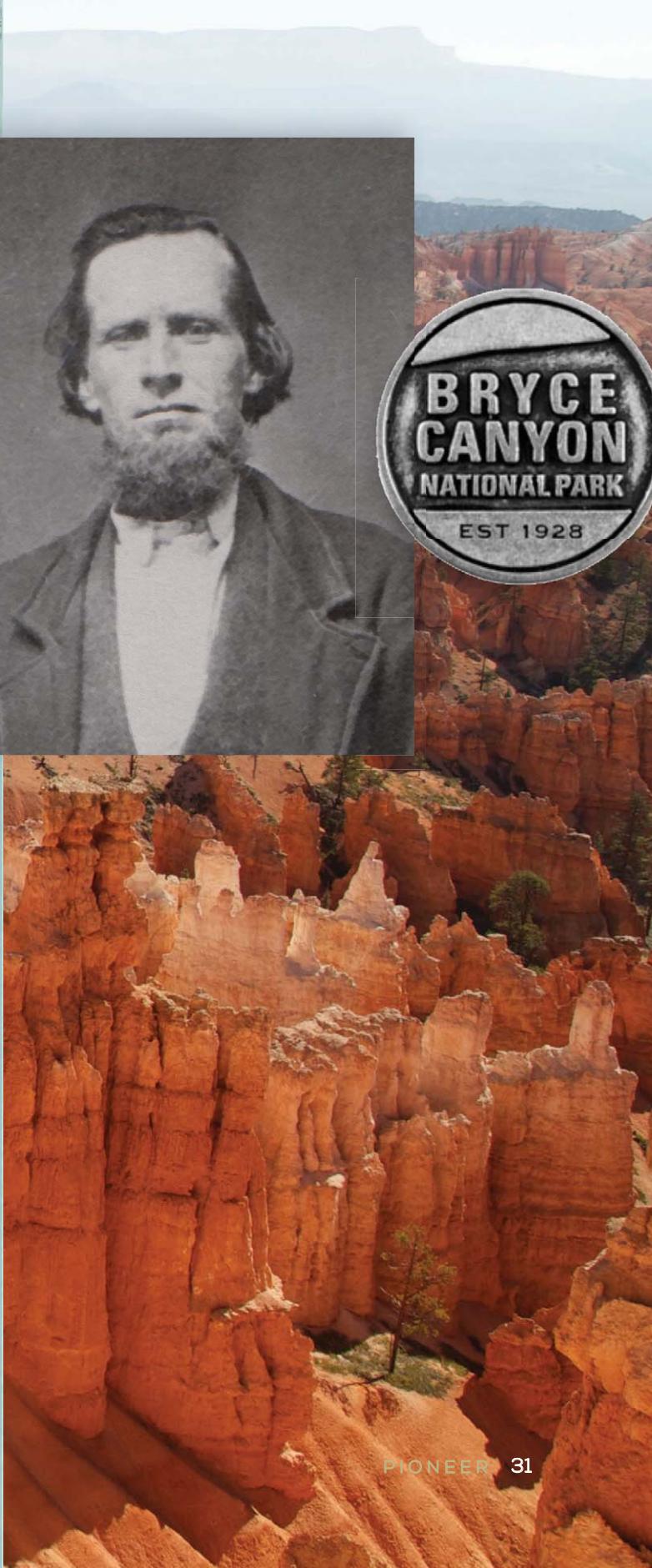
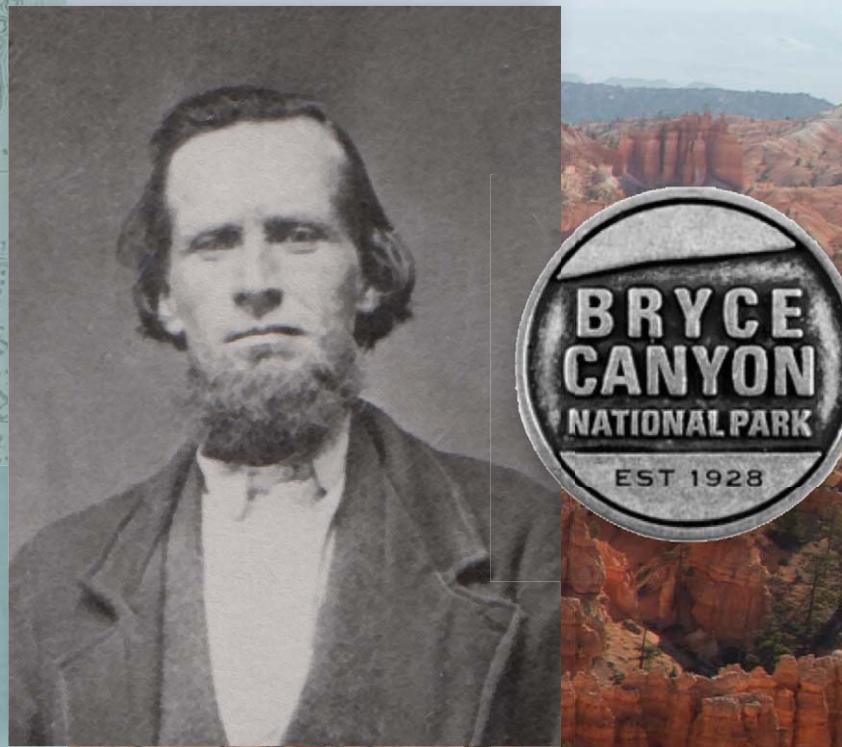
The Life of Ebenezer Bryce¹

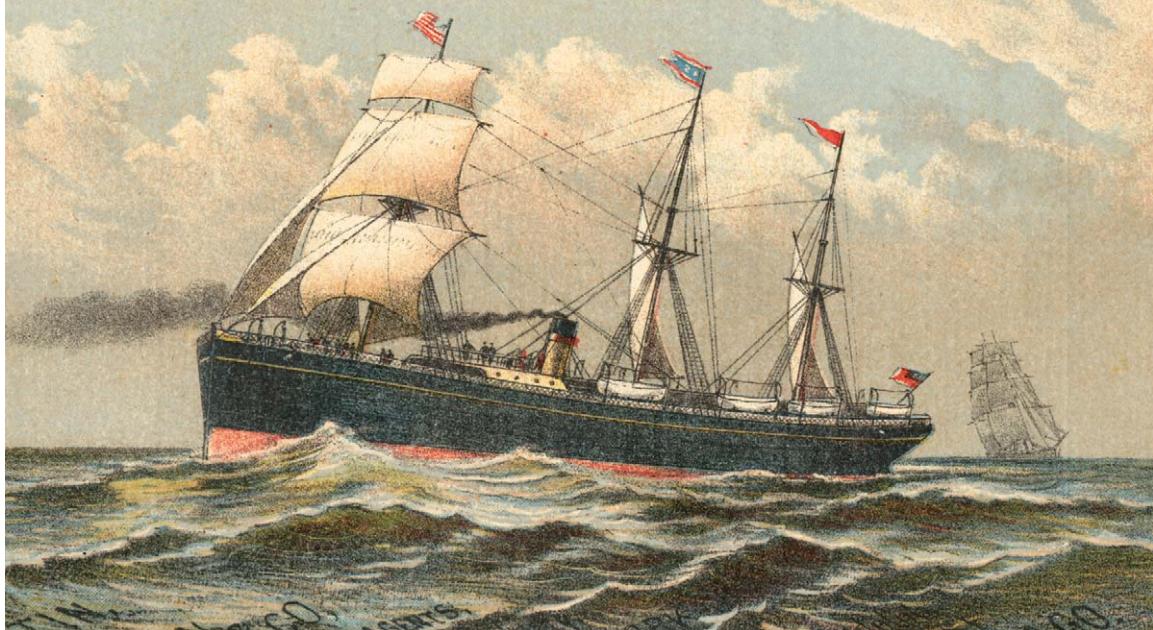
BY GALE REX BRYCE
WITH THOMAS ALEXANDER

Early Life

Ebenezer Adam Bryce was born November 17, 1830, to Andrew and Janet Adams Bryce of Dunblane, Perthshire, Scotland. Ebenezer was the third son of eight children born to the couple. While Ebenezer was still a toddler, Andrew moved the family to the parish of Alloa, a busy riverport and seat of manufacturing, including shipbuilding. Ebenezer writes, "At the age of fifteen I was [made an] apprentice in the shipyard for five years." The experience of becoming a ship's carpenter laid a solid foundation for many of his future activities.

A fellow worker at the shipyard, William Fotheringham, who had converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, frequently preached the gospel to his fellow workmen, several of whom embraced it. Ebenezer tells us that "early in the spring of 1848" he "became united with the Church." He was seventeen years old.





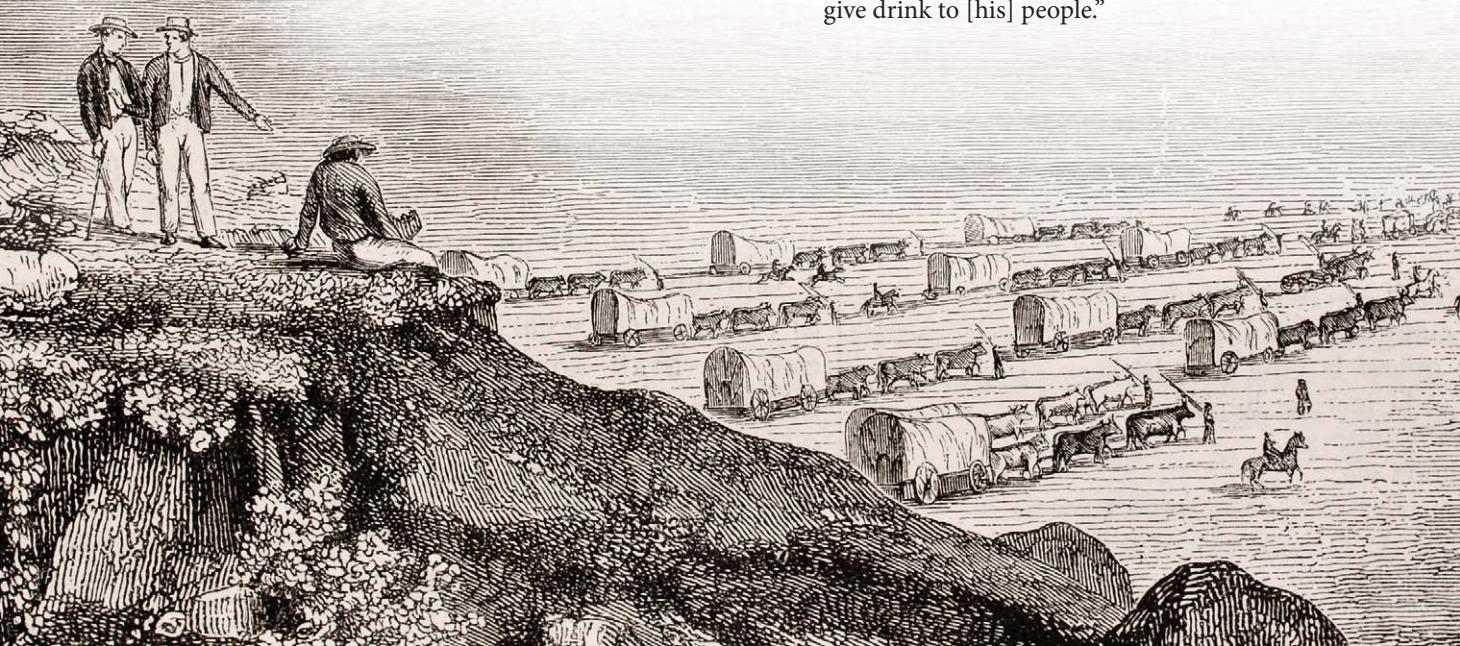
That same year Ebenezer joined the Fotheringham family and other members of their Latter-day Saint branch—several of whom William had introduced to the gospel—on the ship *Erin's Queen* bound for the southern United States. Ebenezer was listed as Bryce Fotheringham on the ship's manifest. The voyage was forty-nine days from Liverpool to New Orleans, arriving on October 27, 1848. Bryce continued his journey upriver to St. Louis where he “was ordained a member of the 31st Quorum of the Seventy under the hands of A. P. Rockwood.”

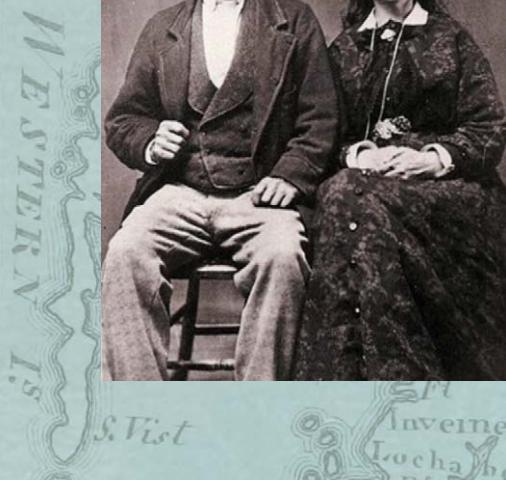
In June 1850 Ebenezer joined the James Pace Company bound for the Salt Lake Valley, a company of one hundred wagons organized by Orson Hyde and captained by Pace. The company arrived in the Valley over a three-day period in late September of that year.

The Valley of the Great Salt Lake

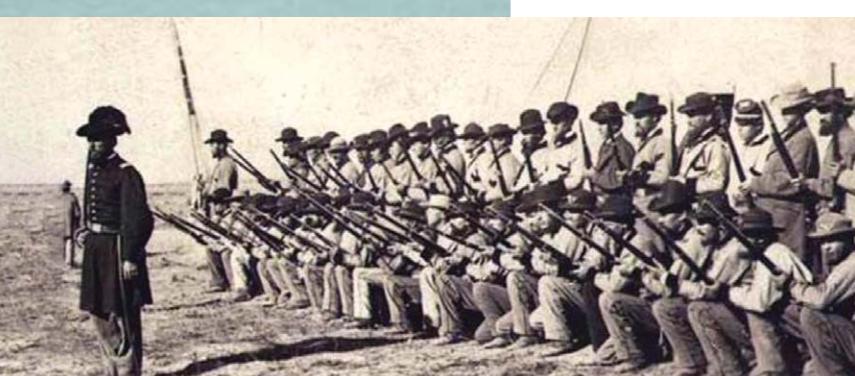
Upon arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, Ebenezer was taken in and given a job by Elder George A. Smith and his wife, Bathsheba; the latter often referred to Ebenezer as “my boy.”² Because the Smith home was ideally situated at the center of Salt Lake City, Ebenezer was able to attend the groundbreaking for the Salt Lake Temple in February 1853, for example, and the laying of the temple cornerstones in early April of that year.

Ebenezer received his patriarchal blessing in June 1851 from Church Patriarch “Uncle” John Smith, the brother of Joseph Smith Sr., who served as Church Patriarch from 1849 to 1854.³ One interesting promise in that blessing was that “when it is necessary for the salvation of Israel,” Ebenezer would “cause streams to break forth in dry places to give drink to [his] people.”





"In the spring we moved south as far as Spanish Fork [and] stayed there during the summer."



Ebenezer was not the only one taken in and given a job by the Smiths. Mary Ann Park—born in Warwick, Kent County, Ontario, Canada, in January 1837—had been hired to help with cooking and other household duties. The two soon became acquainted; over time, they fell in love. They were married in April 1854 in the Smith home; Elder Smith performed the ceremony, and his wife was one of the witnesses. Mary Ann was just three months past her seventeenth birthday; Ebenezer was twenty-three.

Establishing a Profession and a Family

In early 1855 Ebenezer and Mary Ann moved to Tooele, a settlement west of Salt Lake, where Ebenezer had been hired to work at the sawmill of Eli B. Kelsey—his first experience at a working sawmill. The couple's first two children were born in Tooele.

The family moved back to Salt Lake City in 1856, “about the time [of the] trouble with the government of the United States,” Ebenezer wrote. Spurring the event later known as the Utah War, US President James Buchanan had believed false reports from enemies of the Church and decided to send a contingent of 2,500 soldiers to Utah to deal with the “Mormon problem.” Rather than engage in open war with the federal troops, the Saints in what is now northern Utah were directed simply to leave their homes and temporarily relocate to settlements in southern Utah County; this is known as the Move South. The Saints adopted only three defensive tactics—limited guerrilla warfare against federal supply trains; construction of breastworks in Echo Canyon to impede the troops’ entry into the Valley; and, should federal troops threaten to occupy deserted settlements in northern Utah and pillage unharvested crops or other food supplies, a potential scorched-earth policy. Two of these three tactics involved Ebenezer and Mary Ann directly.

In March 1856 Ebenezer was listed as a private in Company A of the Tooele Top Battalion of the Nauvoo Legion. He tells us that he “was on guard with others in Echo Canyon” and undoubtedly took part in the construction of breastworks there.

Meanwhile in the Salt Lake Valley there was great concern among the wives of men with assignments, including Mary Ann. She had a two-year-old son and an infant daughter and was pregnant with a third child. Her husband was potentially under fire by a hostile army, and she and other women knew that, should the army invade and attempt to take over Valley settlements, homes and crops were to be burned by Saints assigned to remain behind and watch. Thankfully, such fears were never realized. As Ebenezer

calmly notes, “In the spring we moved south as far as Spanish Fork [and] stayed there during the summer.” While the Bryces and their neighbors evacuated the city to get out of the way of the army, their homes remained intact.

Nevertheless, it was not until July 1, 1856, that Brigham Young authorized the Saints to return to the Valley. Ebenezer reports that instead of returning to their home, they “moved to Mill Creek Ward and settled there.” Locating in the Mill Creek area was a great blessing to Mary Ann because she and her family were reunited with her parents and other family members, including her sister Jane.

Jane had married Archibald Gardner in 1852; within a few short years Gardner had become a successful entrepreneur who owned several gristmills and sawmills. Thus, the move to Mill Creek was an economic blessing to the Bryces, given Ebenezer’s subsequent employment at one of his brother-in-law’s mills. In March 1861 the Bryces were sealed in the Endowment House, and that fall Ebenezer received a call from Church leaders that would radically change his family’s life.

Called to Dixie

Ebenezer writes, “[During] October [1861] conference [I] was called on a mission with about 200 other families”; they were charged with settling southwestern Utah. Generally known as the “Cotton Mission,” the resulting enterprise would become St. George—named in honor of George A. Smith who had personally selected many of the settler families.⁴ Ebenezer reports that his family “arrived in St. George early in December” when their fifth child was about six weeks old. The journey from Mill Creek—with five children, the oldest of which was not quite seven years old—had taken about five weeks.

Ebenezer reports that in the spring of 1862 he “was called upon by Erastus Snow to go to Pine Valley to build sawmills.” There he became reacquainted with an old friend, Lorenzo Brown,⁵ with whom he had worked in sawmills at Mill Creek.

In February 1863 the two friends contracted to purchase the Pine Valley claim of Thomas Forsyth,⁶ which included a log house, a half-acre garden lot, some hewn timber for a mill, and a grant for a mill site.⁷ Over the next two months Bryce and Brown struggled to construct their mill, collecting enough iron to forge necessary metal parts by hand. But by mid-April discouragement and financial setbacks led the two friends to seriously consider selling their claim—had there been anyone to sell it to. President Brigham Young encouraged them to persevere, and so the two men worked for another mill in the valley⁸ so they could support their families until their own mill was viable. The need for funds was likely brought forcefully to Ebenezer’s attention when Mary Ann bore him twins, making a total of seven children under the age of nine.

Ebenezer and Lorenzo labored to make their investment viable, taking teams up the nearby canyons, marking trees, felling them, and hauling them to their mill to be sawn into lumber. By May 1863 they were “leveling the mill race, so at the close of this week things look more prosperous than they have done before.” At this point Archibald Gardner became an equal partner in the mill with Lorenzo and Ebenezer.⁹

In January 1864 Ebenezer and Lorenzo traveled to Salt Lake City to discuss with Apostles Erastus Snow, George A. Smith, and Wilford Woodruff the allocation of timber resources in Pine Valley. The two men were assured that they





“If a flood should come, it would float, and if a wind came strong enough to blow it over, it still would never crash to pieces.”

would have the timber they needed. The mill did well, and two years later, the two men reached an agreement whereby Lorenzo bought out Ebenezer's share in the mill.¹⁰

The Pine Valley Chapel

The original settlers of Pine Valley built largely temporary dwellings in a hilly valley in Pine Valley Canyon known as the upper town; these “were either dugouts or hastily built cabins.”¹¹ In 1866 most of the original residents moved to the flatter and larger “lower town” further down the canyon where there was more arable land and irrigation was easier.¹²

After the “big move” and after original settlers were joined by others, Pine Valley residents voted to build a church/schoolhouse “that they could make more use of and one that they could be proud of.” When they asked Ebenezer if he could design the building, he responded that “if they would be satisfied to have it built like a ship upside down, he would be willing to try it. Everyone agreed.”¹³

A strong foundation was created for the building, with shaped granite boulders as the cornerstones and limestone blocks in between. From a nearby gorge, tall straight pine trees were selected for the foundation of the walls of the chapel. Logs selected for “the bottom layers” were more than two feet in diameter; squared off, the logs remained “fully eighteen to twenty-four inches square.” Each log was painstakingly squared “by cutting the four sides off with an adze”; each of the four sides of the building was laid out on the ground and put together with wooden pegs.¹⁴



With a series of pulleys and other necessary equipment the sides were hoisted into place and fastened with auger holes and pins. Then the corners were wrapped with strips of green rawhide, which when it dried, shrank and held pretty solidly. . . . Each man had a rope ready to pull but relaxed until Bryce gave the signal. From his experience in shipyards, he had memorized a little rhyme used there. He would repeat it, and when he came to a special word it meant “Pull” and all would pull together. The little boys heard it so many times that the rest of their lives they could repeat it.¹⁵

Once the walls were up the rafters for the roof were put in place. A small room was created at the north end of the attic for holding prayer meetings. Part of the south wall of this room was left open so that it is still possible today to see the construction of the rafters and the ceiling of the chapel. The rafters are at least eight-by-eight inches square.

After the church structure was completed, the outside walls were covered with shiplap—interlocked wooden planking—and were painted; work then began on the interior. The ground floor was made into two rooms for primary and secondary schools. The second floor was the chapel and originally included a small stage for dramatic performances. The chapel's distinctive rounded ceiling is indeed the hull of an upside-down ship.

As the building was being finished, Ebenezer Bryce was heard to remark of it, “If a flood should come, it would float, and if a wind came strong

enough to blow it over, it still would never crash to pieces.”¹⁶ The Pine Valley Chapel was completed and dedicated in 1868, standing as an enduring monument to the pioneer craftsmanship of its architect and those who worked with him. In continuous use for more than 150 years, the building is—as a granite marker in front of it proclaims—“one the longest continuously operated chapels of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”¹⁷

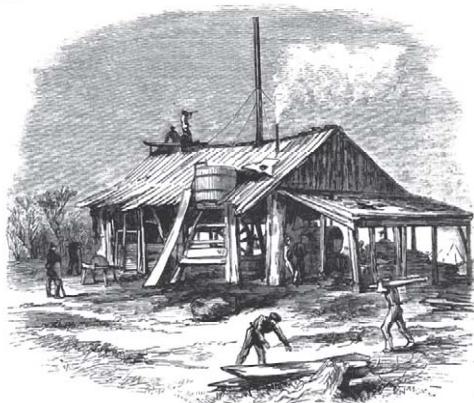
Mount Trumbull

In the summer of 1872 Bryce partnered with Samuel Burgess to purchase a steam sawmill from **Robert Gardner** who, in turn, had explored



south of St. George and “found plenty of timber of good quality seventy miles south at Mount Trumbull near the Colorado River.”¹⁸ Ebenezer tells us that just over a year later, in early fall 1873, he and Burgess¹⁹ “received an invitation from the President of the St. George Stake to move [our] sawmill to Mount Trumbull in Arizona to saw lumber for the St. George Temple.”

The reason for requesting the two men to relocate to Mount Trumbull—a difficult seventy-five mile journey southeast of St. George—instead of remaining in Pine Valley, only thirty-five miles away, was that each location featured very different timber. The forests on Mount Trumbull were old-growth ponderosa pine, “ideally suited for rough construction” like



RIGHT: BRYCE CANYON BY ANDRES HARO, UNSPLASH.COM;
ENGRAVING BY DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM

*Ebenezer Bryce,
his invalid wife,
and their tired
children arrived
... driving a
large flock of
sheep and a few
head of cattle.*



framing, where both the strength and length of cut wood were important. The red and white pine forests of Pine Valley, on the other hand, were ideal “for interior finishing,” where “finer-grained wood was needed.”²⁰

Bryce's Canyon

In his autobiography, Ebenezer tells us that the family moved to the “head of the Pahreah (Paria) [River in] Garfield County” in 1876. The family had grown large. The oldest son, Ebenezer Park Bryce, turned twenty-one in February of that year. There were an additional nine children, six of whom were teenagers.

The move was at least in part prompted by concerns for Mary Ann’s health. In late 1875 her health failed and she was soon bedridden. It may be that heavy domestic responsibilities contributed to her illness. Family histories record that, for many years, “she did the washing, ironing, and sewing for their large family. There were also candles and soap to be made. She and the older girls would card, spin, and knit wool from their sheep.”²¹ Ebenezer hoped that the move to a more moderate climate would lead to Mary Ann’s recovery. But on their move to Paria, they drove a large and expanded flock of sheep: Ebenezer had traded their home in Pine Valley for the sheep owned by a man named Henry Slade.²²

Only men of great vision and faith could have settled the area surrounding the head of the Paria River. The comparatively few flat areas were covered with sagebrush and cut with deep ravines from the periodic heavy rains. And the dominant natural feature of the area was an otherworldly red-rock canyon filled with wind- and water-carved pillars called hoodoos. Today when people gaze from the canyon rim, they likely see only the breathtaking beauty of what stretches before them. But having arrived at that rim after driving on smoothly paved roads in an air-conditioned car, they are in an appropriate frame of mind to truly see what lies before them and to marvel at nature’s magnificent handiwork.

Ebenezer Bryce, his invalid wife, and their tired children arrived in horse drawn wagons, driving a large flock of sheep and a few head of cattle. While they were likely struck by the canyon’s strange beauty, they must also have been aghast at the dearth of arable land and the woefully small creek flowing from



the canyon. Indeed, there is an apocryphal story that Ebenezer, in referring to the canyon and its tantalizing maze of hoodoos, wryly commented, “It’s a hell of a place to lose a cow!”²³

The family homestead at Paria is described as being “opposite [from] where the creek from Bryce Canyon joins the Paria River.” To ensure adequate water for drinking and a small garden, Ebenezer and two of his sons “went up the creek until they found a series of springs” which they “set about cleaning” to “develop more flow.”²⁴ Because that initial water source was insufficient for any significant farming, Ebenezer “shepherded the digging of a seven-mile-long ditch to take water out of Paria Creek for irrigation purposes.”²⁵ This effort to provide water for his family’s needs is at least partial fulfillment of Patriarch John Smith’s blessing to Ebenezer: “Thou shalt cause streams to break forth in dry places to give drink to thy people.”

Ebenezer and his sons also created a road to stands of timber in the canyon “to obtain logs to build a house [and] fences and [to procure] firewood.”²⁶ With Ebenezer’s ready permission, settlers in nearby Cannonville (founded in 1874, about eighteen months before the Bryces’ arrival at Paria) also took advantage of the road into the canyon, hauling timber and firewood for their own use. In short order, they began referring to the long,

Ebenezer Park Bryce



Helen Diana Packer



brightly colored landmark as “Bryce’s Canyon,” later shortened to “Bryce Canyon.”

Ebenezer and Mary Ann’s oldest son, Ebenezer Park Bryce, was married to Helen Diana Packer in February 1877. Ebenezer and Ebenezer Park built two connected log homes—each with two rooms—that shared a common roof with a hall between them.²⁷ Ebenezer and Mary Ann lived in one home; Ebenezer Park and Helen in the other. There must have been a lot of excitement in those homes on November 30, 1878, because on that day two new babies were born. Ebenezer Nephi Packer Bryce was born to Helen and Ebenezer Park; Heber Brooks Bryce²⁸ was born to Mary Ann and Ebenezer, their eleventh child.

As other settlers trickled into the Cannonville area, they seemed to look to Ebenezer for community leadership. In August 1878 he was elected justice of the peace for the Cannonville Precinct of Iron County.²⁹ He was previously justice of the peace in the Pine Valley Precinct of Washington County.³⁰

In July 1880 Ebenezer sold his farm in the canyon named after him and moved his family to Panguitch, Utah, about twenty-eight miles northwest. His and Mary Ann’s twelfth child, a son, was born in September of that year. Ebenezer’s autobiography emphasizes that Panguitch was a relatively fertile yet only temporary waystation for the family. Ever mindful of Mary Ann’s fragile health, Ebenezer searched for a warmer and yet comfortably arable place to live. In the fall of 1880 Ebenezer sent his son David Andrew to explore possible townsites in New Mexico; sons William Henry and Alma Nephi were sent to Arizona, where David later joined them. David and Alma returned to Panguitch in the summer of 1881 with a positive report, and in Sep-



Paria, Utah

Historic Tropic A Town is Born

Ebenezer Bryce

In 1875, a Scotman named Ebenezer Bryce settled just south of here, where Bryce Creek meets the Paria River. He and Daniel Goulding dug a 7-mile canal from Pine Creek on the Aquarius Plateau to irrigate their East Valley farmlands. Bryce also built a road into the limestone highlands above his ranch to reach timber and culinary water. Locals referred to those brilliant formations as Bryce's Canyon—today we know them as Bryce Canyon National Park.

Make Do, or Do Without

"You just raised your gardens, you bottled fruits and vegetables, you stored your vegetables in the cellars and if the cow went dry, why you



"On May 23, 1892, at 4:00 p.m., water flowed over a dry canal bed into the parched lands of the northwestern Bryce Valley. In that moment, the town of Tropic was born. For two years, settlers had awaited the completion of the 10-mile-long canal that would divert water from the East Fork of the Sevier River, on the Paunsaugunt Plateau. Nearly 40 men helped hand-dig the 8-foot wide, 18-inch deep ditch. Their handiwork continues to bring irrigation water to Tropic today."

—Tropic marker pictured above

tember of that year, Ebenezer, Mary Ann, and all their children and grandchildren moved to Arizona, where Ebenezer and Mary Ann would spend the rest of their lives.

Bryce Canyon National Park³¹

Andrew Janus Hansen and his wife Mary settled in Cannonville in what was by then called

Bryce Valley in July 1886. In 1889 Andrew, with the assistance of William Lewman, surveyed the ditch that Ebenezer and his sons had dug to bring water to their farm. Hansen and Lewman decided that they could create a shorter, more efficient route for the ditch. It was a route that Ebenezer and sons could not have considered because it ran along the base of rocky cliffs where blasting and skillful rock work would be necessary. To finance the new ditch, Hansen and Lewman surveyed a new townsite, laying out sixteen blocks with four lots each. Individual lots were sold to raise funds for the completion of the ditch, and the town became Tropic, Utah. Work continued on the canal until May 1892 when water from the East Fork of the Sevier River was turned into it, and the town held a great celebration.³²

Because town lots in Tropic were available for only \$7.50 each, and because the town now had a good supply of water, it grew to a population of 379 by 1900; by 1920 there were nearly 500 residents. Meanwhile, in 1916 Reuben (Ruby) Syrett and his wife, Clara (Minnie), homesteaded land just northwest of Bryce Canyon. In 1919, having invited friends from Salt Lake to come and observe the canyon, Ruby and Clara pitched a tent near what became known as Sunset Point from which they served lunch to their guests. When these same friends said they wished they could stay for the night, Ruby set up a few beds under the trees. By the following year Ruby and Clara had created "Tourist Rest," a modest lodge, and the family began



Historic Ruby's Inn

to offer dinner and breakfast. In 1923 they replaced the lodge with Ruby's Inn—constructed not on the canyon's rim but on the Syretts' ranch—which soon became a Bryce Valley institution.³³

During the early 1900s Bryce Canyon became part of the Powell National Forest, administered by the Forest Service, and was managed as an emerging tourist attraction. In 1919 the Utah Legislature passed a joint memorial urging the establishment of Bryce Canyon as a national monument under the name "Temple of the Gods."

In November 1919 **Stephen Mather**, the



director of the National Park Service, first saw Bryce Canyon in the company of several other prominent men, including Gilbert Grosvenor of the National Geographic Society.³⁴ Salt Lake City banker Lafayette Hanchett wrote that as the group approached the

rim at Bryce Canyon, their driver asked Mather and the others to close their eyes.

At the word "open up," Mather fairly gasped at the colorful spectacle—the miracle of Nature unfolded below him; he chortled with glee, saying, "Marvelous; exquisite; nothing like it anywhere. This spot must be opened to all American scenery lovers, not just as a National Monument, but it must have National Park status."³⁵

Meanwhile, Senator Reed Smoot was working to establish a national park at Bryce Canyon. As a ranking and influential senator, he could secure passage in the Senate of most bills that he supported. He introduced Senate Bill 668 on December 10, 1923, intended to make Bryce Canyon a national park. The bill passed the Senate without amendments on April 2, 1924.³⁶

As with earlier proposals for new national parks and monuments, the House was less enthusiastic. After extensive debate in the House and political negotiations with the Senate, an amended version of the bill was passed by House members. The amended version of the bill was accepted by Smoot: he undoubtedly realized that he could not secure



*"Marvelous;
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scenery lovers
... it must have
National Park
status."*

the Park's establishment in any other way. With Smoot's behind-the-scenes negotiations and influence, the House and Senate finally agreed on the amended bill and passed it on December 6, 1927.

But Smoot wasn't entirely satisfied, and Stephen Mather, National Park Service Director, notified the Forest Service that Smoot would immediately introduce legislation to enlarge Bryce's boundaries and change the park's name from Utah National Park to Bryce Canyon National Park.³⁷ This bill was introduced by Smoot on December 9, 1927; it was passed by the Senate without opposition in mid-January 1928 and by the House a month later.³⁸ With Stephen Mather presiding, the National Park Service and Utah officials dedicated Bryce Canyon National Park on Sunday evening, September 16, 1928.³⁹ □

Gale Rex Bryce is a great-grandson of Ebenezer and Mary Ann Park Bryce

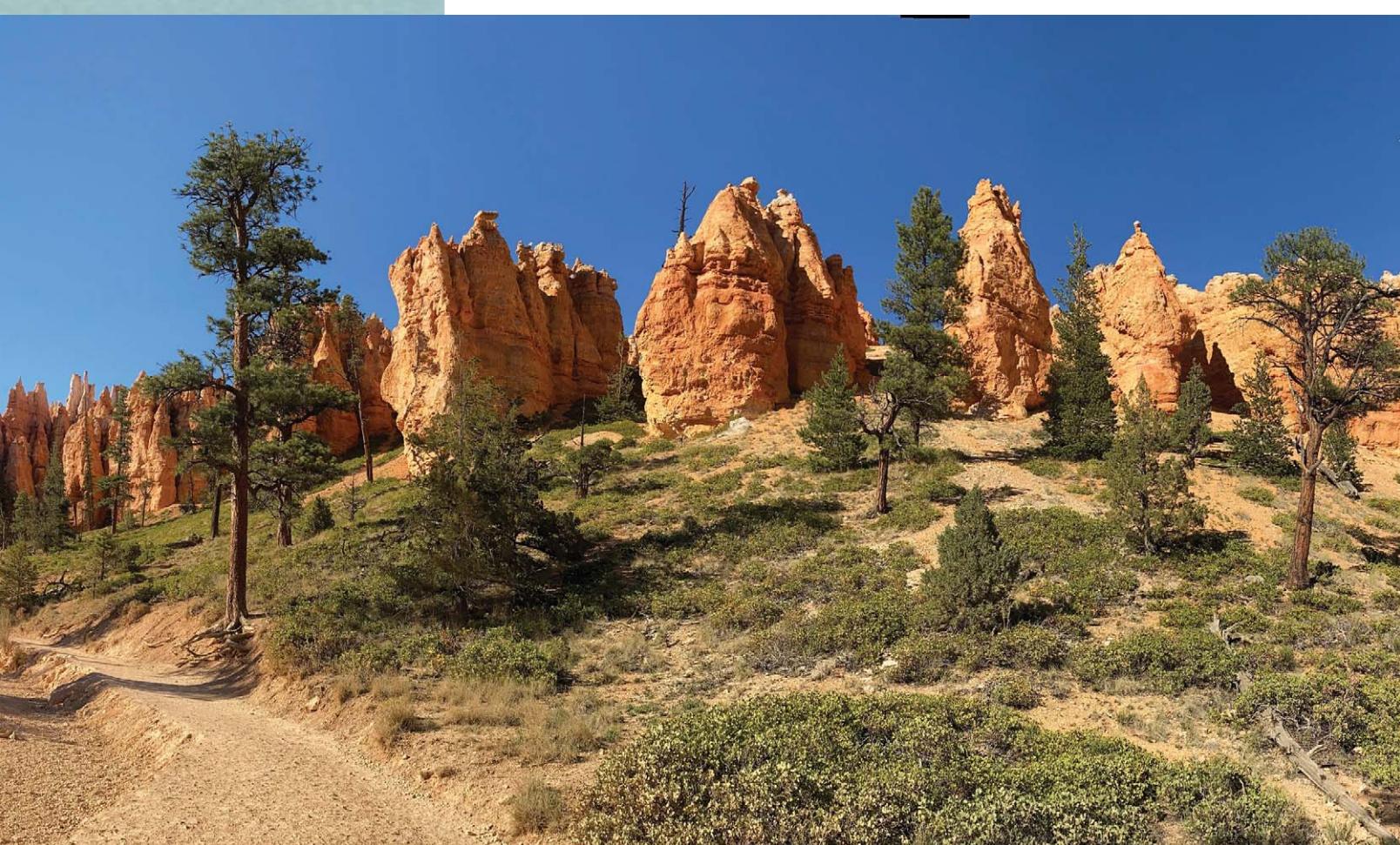
1 This history is based on a brief autobiography of Ebenezer Bryce found on FamilySearch.com under "Ebenezer Adam Bryce," Library, item 603744, online.

2 A. Elnora Bryce, "History of Ebenezer Bryce" (1959), Ebenezer Bryce papers: 1856–1965, folder 10, MS 20984, Church Archives, Salt Lake City.

3 Ebenezer Bryce papers: 1856–1965, folder 13, MS 20984, Church Archives, Salt Lake City.

4 Utah's Dixie, History, "A Brief History of the Establishment of St. George, Utah," UtahsDixie.com, online.

5 Lorenzo Brown Journal, 24 and 26 May 1861, p. 132, online.



6 "Thomas Forsyth," *FamilySearch.org*, online.

7 Lorenzo Brown Journal, 5 Feb – 6 Mar 1863, p. 145, online.

8 Lorenzo Brown Journal, 14 and 15 April 1863, 10 May 1863, p. 147, online.

9 Lorenzo Brown Journal, 23 May 1863, p. 148. One of Archibald's mills still stands at Gardner Village in West Jordan, Utah.

10 Lorenzo Brown Journal, 29 Mar 1864, 6 May 1866, 155ff. Lorenzo began asking several months before the actual sale that Ebenezer to sell his share to him; negotiations leading to the final agreement were apparently not always amicable.

11 Bess Snow and E. S. Beckstrom, *O Ye Mountains High: The Story of Pine Valley* (St. George Heritage Press, 1980), ch. 7, "The Chapel." Snow and Beckstrom were born in Pine Valley in 1903 and 1900, respectively. The book was written from their memories and the memories of other residents of the town; there are no footnotes or references in the text.

12 Mary Phoenix, "The Pine Valley Chapel," *History, Washington County Historical Society, WCHSUtah.org*, online.

13 Snow and Beckstrom, ch. 7.

14 Snow and Beckstrom, ch. 7; Phoenix.

15 Ibid. Phoenix writes that the hoisting of the sides of the chapel required the strength of every "man, boy, and animal" in town.

16 Pine Chapel Valley, Utah, "Pine Valley Discovered," *St. George Temple Visitors Center Information*, online.

17 Ibid.

18 Robert Gardner Jr., "Utah Pioneer—1847, Written by Himself at St. George, 29 January 1884," in Blaine M. Yorgason, R. A. Schmutz, and D. D. Alder, *All That Was Promised* (2013), 105–6.

19 The relevant name in Ebenezer's handwritten autobiography has been interpreted as "Samial Bergo," but the writing is unclear. *FamilySearch* includes a life story of Samuel Burgess (PID# KWV3-SGK) stating that "Samuel and Ebenezer Bryce built the 4th sawmill in the [Pine] valley." The identity of Ebenezer's business partner in Pine Valley is confirmed by Robert Gardner, Jr., in Yorgason, et al., 106.

20 Yorgason, et al., 218.

21 A. Elnora Bryce (1959).

22 This is probably Henry Slade found in *FamilySearch.com*, online, whose first six (of thirteen) children were born in Pine Valley, Utah.

23 Some of his granddaughters, offended by the story, insisted that Ebenezer never used profanity.

24 Wendell A. Bryce, personal history, edited 1983, *FamilySearch.org*, "Wendell A. Bryce," *Memories/Stories*, online.

25 A. Elnora Bryce (1959).

26 Ibid.

27 "History of Ebenezer Park Bryce and his wife Helen Diana Packer," *FamilySearch.org*, "Ebenezer Park Bryce," *Memories/Stories*, online.

28 Heber Brooks is the author's grandfather. The first ten of Mary Ann and Ebenezer's children were born an average of just over two years apart. However, there were almost six and a half years between numbers ten and eleven, undoubtedly reflecting Mary Ann's poor health during this period.

29 Original Certificate of Justice of the Peace, Ebenezer Bryce papers: 1856–1965, folder 2, MS 20984, Church Archives, Salt Lake City. In 1878, Iron County was a band stretching across the Utah Territory and incorporating all of present-day Iron and Garfield Counties, together with portions of San Juan, Washington, and Kane Counties.

30 Commission issued by George A. Black, Acting Governor of Utah Territory, 23 Feb 1871, series 242, reel 2, volume B, page 369, Name: Ebenezer Bryce, *Utah.gov, History/Research*, online.

31 Following the first two paragraphs of this section, the remainder of this article was written by Thomas G. Alexander.

32 Linda King Newell and Vivian Linford Talbot, *A History of Garfield County* (Garfield County Commission, 1998), 201–5, online; *Tropic General Plan*, privately printed, Tropic, Utah (2020), 6, online; Nicholas Scattish, "The Modern Discovery, Popularization, and Early Development of Bryce Canyon, Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 49.4 (Fall 1981): 351–2.

33 Bryce Canyon and Ruby's Inn History," *RubysInn.com, About Us*, online; Scattish, "Modern Discovery," 358–62. Subsequent paragraphs in the present article were written by Thomas G. Alexander.

34 Stephen T. Mather to Lester D. Freed, 13 Nov 1919, and Mather to Freed, telegram, 14 Nov 1919, RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, General Records, Central Files, 1907–30, Zion, Administration to Miscellaneous, part 3, box 330, entry 6, National Archives II, College Park, Maryland.

35 Lafayette Hanchett, "Stephen T. Mather," typescript, document box 8, folder 2384, Historical Files, Zion National Park.

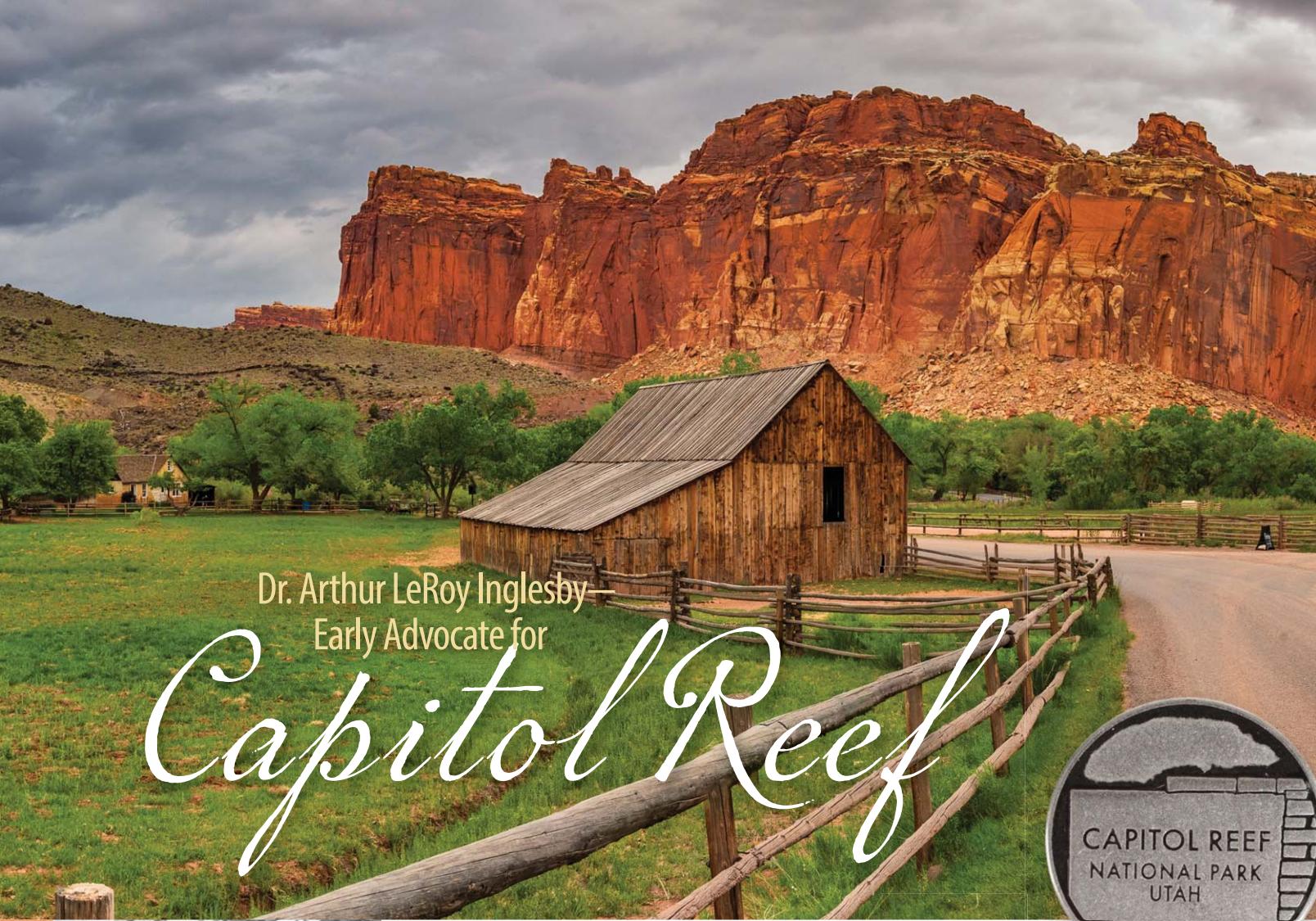
36 *Congressional Record*, 68th Congress, first session (1924): 145, 4609, 5405.

37 Stephen T. Mather to Leon F. Kneipp, 6 Dec 1927, box 3, Historical Records, Bryce Canyon National Park.

38 *Congressional Record*, 70th Congress, first session (1928): 350, 1428, 3277.

39 *Congressional Record*, 68th Congress, first session (1924); Reed Smoot, "Diary," Reed Smoot Collection, MSS 1187, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, HBLL, Brigham Young U, 6 Jun 1924; Nicholas Scattish, *Historic Resource Study, Bryce Canyon National Park* (1985), *Elusive Documents* (paper 46), 78, online.





Dr. Arthur LeRoy Inglesby—
Early Advocate for
Capitol Reef

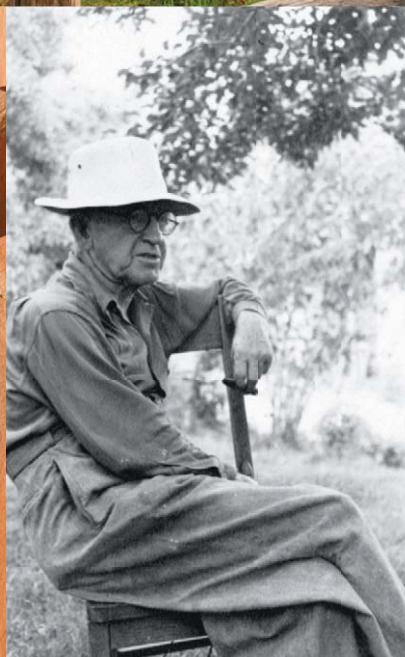


BY WAYNE K. HINTON AND KYLE K. HINTON

Capitol Reef was discovered in the 1870s by livestock men grazing their herds there.¹ Today this beautiful country is one of Utah's five national parks, thanks in part to **Dr. Arthur LeRoy Inglesby**.

Among the unsung heroes of Capitol Reef's designation as a monument and later a national park is an unassuming dentist, Dr. Art Inglesby, known simply as "Doc" to most. He arrived in Utah in 1898 as a freshly minted dentist with a Northwestern University degree in hand. Twenty-six years old, he announced he would begin a dental practice among miners and mill workers at Mercur, Utah.²

Indeed, Inglesby became the Kennecott Copper Company dentist serving miners at Bingham Canyon, and he was soon making a small fortune.³ He also began his first busing business, naming it Bingham Stage Lines Company. It consisted of





Intelligence Tour bus

The park touring business became Doc's first love, and he abandoned dentistry for park tourism. However, in 1930 the Utah Parks Company strangled his Intelligence Tours by refusing to rent their cabins—located in the parks—to Inglesby's tour groups. Nevertheless, Inglesby remained passionate about Utah's scenic wonders and regularly traveled to these sites, often taking friends with him.⁸



four Big White buses providing round-trip service on the Arrowhead Highway from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles.⁴

Inglesby then began one of the first organized national park bus tours, originating in Salt Lake City and running to Bryce, Cedar Breaks, Zion, and the north rim of the Grand Canyon. These were ten-day round trips which Doc called "Intelligence Tours."⁵

At first the Intelligence Tours went well. Inglesby was a colorful character who spiced his public conversation with colorful language, attracting interest and investors. He ensured that each tour was hosted by a knowledgeable and engaging guide who provided lectures on the history and geology of each park or monument; a tour photographer accompanied each group. Inglesby charged less for his ten-day tour than the Utah Parks Company did for its six-day tour.⁶ And to better serve his patrons on the Intelligence Tours he had the White Motor Company manufacture special buses with retractable roofs for viewing the park vistas.⁷

When fierce competition from the Utah Parks Company and the Union Pacific Railroad drove him out of the park tour business, Inglesby moved to Fruita, Utah, in Wayne County.⁹ Here his activities drew attention to Capitol Reef and stimulated interest in the area. Even though there was no paved road in all of Wayne County, in 1937 President Franklin D. Roosevelt set aside over 37,000 acres as Capitol Reef National Monument.

At Fruita, Doc purchased some land from Mrs. Dicey Chestnut where he built two cabins near the point that Sulfur Creek empties into the Fremont River. The more than one million annual Capitol Reef Park visitors today know this site as Doc Inglesby's Grove.¹⁰ From here Doc explored the entirety of the Capitol Reef area. His enthusiasm for its wonders attracted so many of his friends and others who heard about him that he built additional cabins for

his visitors and seldom charged his close friends, although others could expect to pay.¹¹ Among Doc's friends was Charlie Gibbons, a similarly colorful character and a well-known rancher from Hanksville. Before Charlie's death in 1952, Doc and Charlie together became emissaries for Wayne County and Capitol Reef.

The *Saturday Evening Post* heard of Doc and his retreat and did an article in 1958 on Doc, Fruita, the beauties of Wayne County, and Doc's amazing rock collection.¹²

After his losing struggle with Utah Parks Company, Doc became critical of the National Park Service. By the end of the 1950s his and Charlie's activities had made Capitol Reef well-known to many

people across the nation, and serious consideration was being given to granting Capitol Reef national park status. Ironically, Doc Inglesby resisted Capitol Reef's becoming a national park, but it was too scenic and had become too well-known for him to prevent the inevitable outcome.¹³

Despite his resistance to the proposal that Capitol Reef receive park status, Doc Inglesby had sparked much of the interest eventually leading to the creation of Capitol Reef National Park. ▀

1 Wayne K. Hinton, *Managing an Alpine Forest in a Desert Setting* (1986), 47.

2 *Salt Lake Tribune*, 11 Nov 1960.

3 Freemasons, Canyon Lodge No. 13, Bingham Canyon, Utah, 12 Nov 1960.

Doc Inglesby had died earlier that same month.

4 Milton Cowan [friend and driver for Doc Inglesby], to Kyle Hinton, letter, 4 Mar 1993.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid. The Utah Parks Company was a subsidiary of the Union Pacific Railroad and a concessionaire of the National Park Service.

7 Ibid.

8 *Salt Lake Tribune*, 11 Nov 1960.

9 Milton Cowan to Kyle Hinton, letter, 4 Mar 1993.

10 *Cedar City Spectrum*, 29 Apr 1993.

11 Col. James Harps [friend of Inglesby], taped interview by Kyle Hinton, St. George, Utah, 20 Feb 1993.

12 Andrew Hamilton, "They Find Baubles in the Dust" *Saturday Evening Post*, 31 May 1958.

13 Harps, 20 Feb 1993.



OVERLOOKING
Canyonlands





BY ALEXANDRA TANNER WALLER

If you were to look at satellite imagery of Utah, do you think you could find each of its five national parks? Capitol Reef's Waterpocket Fold is a bright line, easy to pick out from space, and if you knew what you were looking for you might zoom in on the furrowed cliffs of Zion. Bryce Canyon and Arches are more difficult—their unique features really shine on the human scale. To find Canyonlands, though, you just point to the middle of the orange splotch upriver from Lake Powell. As you zoom in closer, the name for the park becomes obvious: this is a land of canyons. They tangle and feather out in every direction, branching fractals carved into rock. In the middle of all the excitement is the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers, which neatly segments Canyonlands into four districts: Island in the Sky, The Needles, The Maze, and the rivers themselves.

Each district has a distinct personality. Island in the Sky is mesa-land, with views reminiscent of a miniature Grand Canyon. The Needles is home to colorfully banded sandstone spires, pinnacles, and arches; and The Maze is a remote labyrinth of sheer-cliffed canyons. The converging rivers offer a leisurely bottom-up view of it all before tumbling through whitewater rapids. North of The Maze, separate from the rest of the park, is Horseshoe Canyon, a portion of land that was added to the park after its initial establishment in order to preserve some of the most significant Native American rock art in the United States. As you virtually fly over the area, you'll see that there are very few roads, and once you are on the ground you will also discover there are also very few

LEFT: CANYONLANDS BY ALAIN CHAN, RIGHT: BY CORTNEY CHUMMOUNGPAK, UNSPLASH.COM

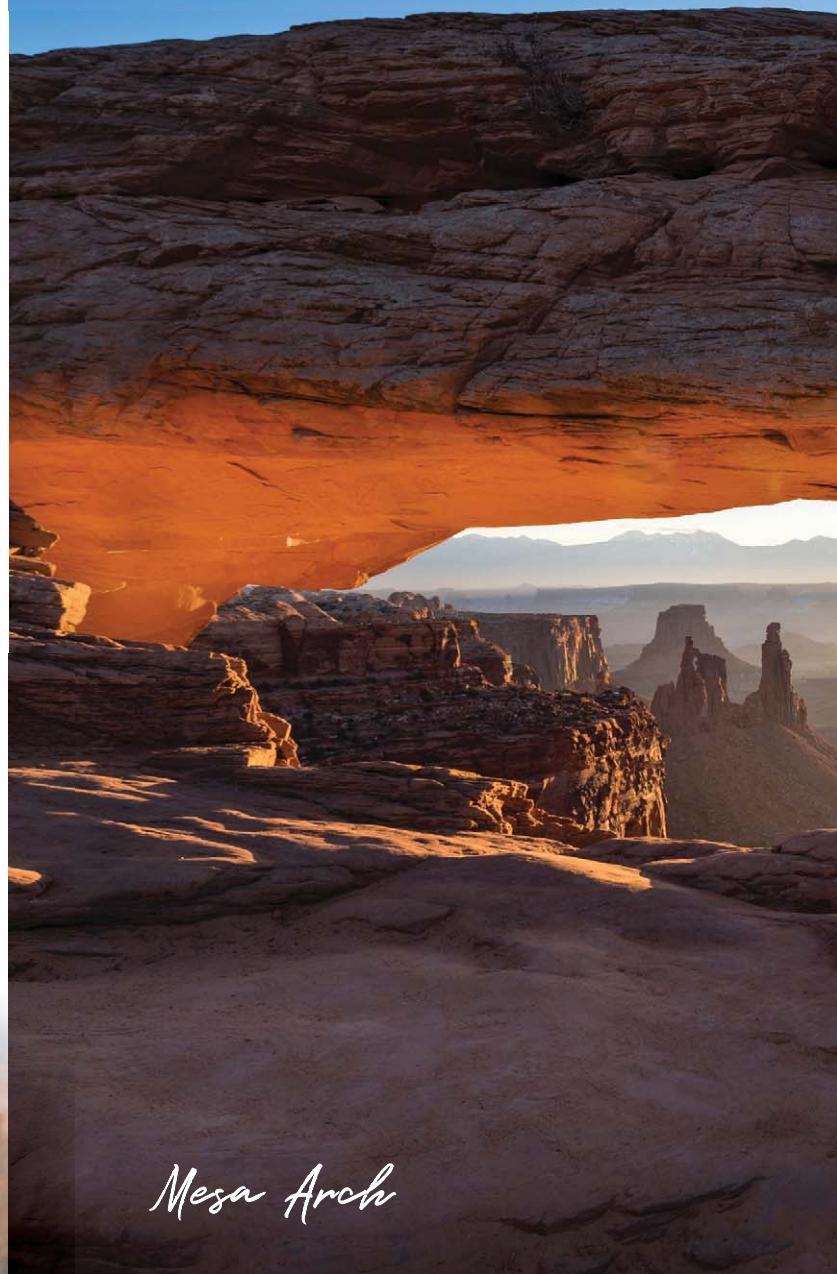


trails. Park Service brochures contain warnings that visitors will not be able to use GPS when navigating certain portions of the park and that “you should be prepared for self-rescue.”¹

While this land seems forbidding today, there is evidence people have lived in the area for at least 10,000 years. Throughout the park are pictographs, petroglyphs, and ruins left by generations of Indigenous peoples who have called the American Southwest home. About one thousand years ago, someone covered a two-hundred-foot-long rock wall in Horseshoe Canyon (formerly called Barrier Canyon) with paintings of anthropomorphic figures, the largest over seven feet tall. The figures have a very distinctive style—many feature long, tapered, rectangular bodies as if wearing floor-length robes, and those that are not completely faceless have large circular eyes.²

There are **hundreds of Barrier Canyon-style rock art sites around the Colorado Plateau**, but archaeologists are still unsure which culture created them. Were they the work of nomadic hunter-gatherers, whose artifacts have been dated back to 8,000 BCE? Or were they created by early farmers who settled the area around 2,000 years ago?³ It may be hard for us today to imagine growing crops and living among the cliffs and gorges of Canyonlands, but archaeological evidence shows two different agrarian cultures lived in the area,

the Fremont people and the Ancestral Puebloans. The Fremont tended to build pit houses, while the Ancestral Puebloans lived in stone masonry cliff dwellings. Both peoples grew maize, corn, beans, and squash and hunted game.⁴ In 1955, a local man found a spectacular sash made of macaw feathers in a canyon alcove. The sash, now in the collection of the Edge of the Cedars State Park museum in Blanding, is evidence that the people of Canyonlands had trade connections that reached all the way into modern-day Mexico.⁵ While they thrived in the area for hundreds of years, most of the people from



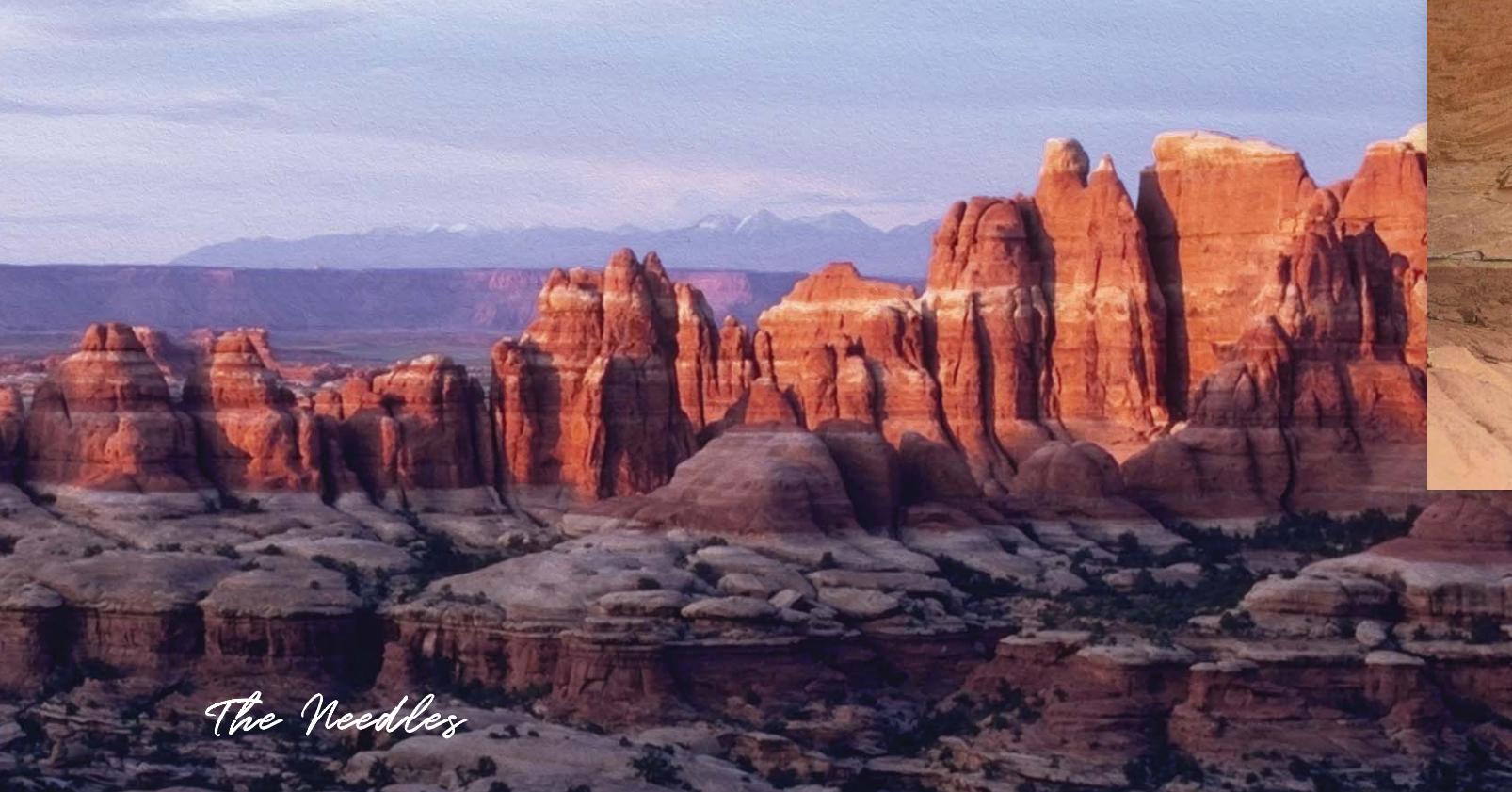
both cultures seemingly left between 1300 and 1500 CE, perhaps due to drought. These were the last peoples to build permanent homes within Canyonlands; since their departure, the region has been the domain of migratory groups, hunters, explorers, ranchers, miners, and adventurers.⁶

In 1858, the US Army Corps of Topographical Engineers published a map titled “Map of Utah Territory Showing the Routes Connecting it with California and the East.” This map rather shockingly labeled the Canyonlands area as “Region Unexplored Scientifically.” Looking to fill in this large blank spot and perhaps find a route for transporting military supplies, US Army officials ordered Captain John

N. Macomb Jr. to lead an expedition through the area in 1859.⁷ Macomb was unimpressed with what he saw, writing the following in his scant report: “I cannot conceive of a more worthless and impracticable region than the one we now found ourselves in. . . . I have heard of but one crossing of that river above the vicinity of the Mojave villages, and I have reason to doubt if that one (El Vado de los Padres) is practicable, except with utmost care, even for a pack-mule.”⁸

Fortunately, Macomb was joined on his expedition by physician/geologist Dr. John S. Newberry, who was less concerned with practicable river crossings and more with celebrating the strange geology and topography he encountered. This is his description of what we now call





The Needles

The Needles: “**Among these [formations] by far the most remarkable was the forest of Gothic spires,** first and imperfectly seen as we issued from the mouth of the Cañon Colorado. Nothing I can say will give an adequate idea of the singular and surprising appearance which they [the spires] presented from this new and advantageous view.

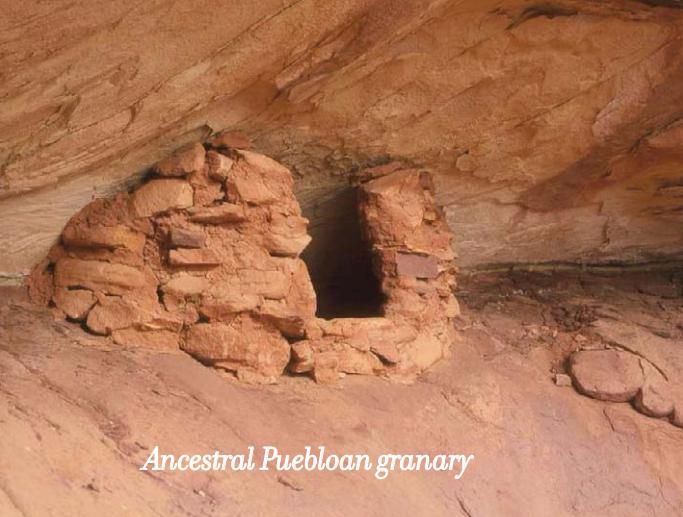
... **Nothing in nature or in art offers a parallel to these singular objects,** but some idea of their appearance may be gained by imagining the island of New York thickly set with spires like that of Trinity Church, but many of them full twice its height.”⁹

Explorer John Wesley Powell led two river expeditions that passed through Canyonlands in 1869 and 1871. Like Macomb, he struggled to convey to readers (who had likely never been out West, much less viewed the canyons of Southwestern rivers) the sheer scale of the topography he encountered at the confluence of the Green and Colorado: “Away to the west are lines of cliffs and ledges of rock—not such ledges as the reader may have seen where the quarryman splits his blocks, but ledges from which the gods might quarry mountains that, rolled out on the plain below, would stand a lofty range; and not such cliffs as the reader may have seen

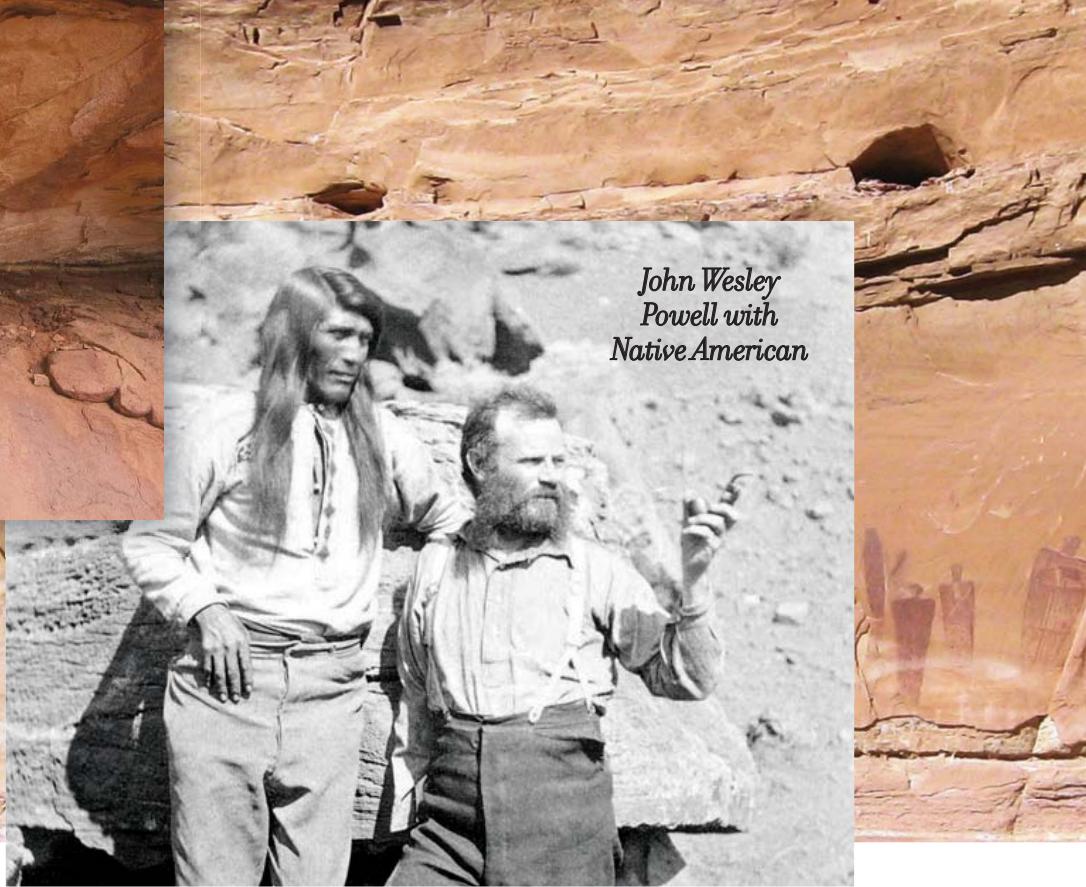
where the swallow builds its nest, but cliffs where the eagle is lost to view ere he reaches the summit.”¹⁰

About seventy years later, these same spectacular views inspired Bates Wilson, the first superintendent of Arches (and eventually Canyonlands), Senator Frank E. Moss (D-Utah), and Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall to advocate strongly for the establishment of Canyonlands National Park. They faced opposition from local cattle ranchers, uranium miners, and others who worried about the economic effects of losing free access to the land. But Secretary Udall had a plan—he invited photographers and journalists to join him on a tour of the proposed national park and, subsequently, to publicize its spectacular beauty. Speaking later of this experience, Udall recalled, “One of my arguments to Utah people is, ‘California is four or five times as big, and they have four national parks. Why shouldn’t Utah have five, [given that] you have the most scenic land?’”¹¹

The bill to establish Canyonlands National Park eventually passed both the Senate and House in 1964, with smaller boundaries than initially proposed and some concessions to mining, drilling, and grazing interests. The bill’s stated purpose was to “preserve an area in the State of Utah possessing superlative scenic, scientific, and archeologic features for the inspiration, benefit, and use of



Ancestral Puebloan granary



the public.”¹² The Park Service developed some roads and trails throughout the park, but many remote areas are accessible only to those willing to make extensive hikes. The relative remoteness of Canyonlands is likely a primary reason it is the least visited of Utah’s national parks. The entrance to Canyonlands’ Island in the Sky is only thirty miles from the entrance to Arches National Park, but for many years Canyonlands has seen fewer than half the number of visitors as its more famous, license-plate-featured cousin.¹³ No less spectacular than Utah’s other national parks, and only slightly harder to reach, Canyonlands is a special treasure for those who venture in. □

1 National Park Service, “Canyonlands: The Maze and Orange Cliffs Unit.” Online.

2 Polly Schaafsma, *Indian Rock Art of the Southwest* (1980), 66.

3 The age of the pictographs in Horsehoe Canyon’s Great Gallery has been

debated by generations of archaeologists and art historians, with older analyses relying on comparisons to other art styles and carbon-dating of artifacts located nearby. A 2014 analysis of rocks in the Great Gallery conducted by Joel Pederson and a team at Utah State University indicated a date somewhere between 0 CE and 1,100 CE (Joel L. Pederson, Melissa S. Chapot, Steven R. Simms, Reza Sohbat, Tammy M. Rittenour, Andrew S. Murray, and Gary Cox, “Age of Barrier Canyon-Style Rock Art Constrained by Cross-Cutting Relations and Luminescence Dating Techniques,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 111.36 (9 Sep 2014): 12,986-12,991.

4 National Park Service, *Canyonlands National Park*, “American Indians.” Online.

5 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum, YouTube, “Macaw Feather Sash, A One-of-a-Kind Artifact,” video. Online.

6 “American Indians,” op. cit.

7 F. A. Barnes, *Canyonlands National Park: Early History and First Descriptions* (1988), 16-17.

8 John N. Macomb and John S. Newberry, *Report of the Exploring Expedition from Santa Fe, New*

Mexico, to the Junction of the Grand and Green Rivers of the Great Colorado ... (1876), 6. The crossing Macomb references no longer exists, as it has been covered by Lake Powell.

9 Ibid. 97.

10 John W. Powell, *The Exploration of the Colorado River and its Canyons* (1865, rep. 1961), 212.

11 Stewart Udall, speaking at Grand View Point on 26 Jul 2006, transcript, National Park Service. Online.

12 *An Act to provide for establishment of the Canyonlands National Park in the State of Utah, and for other purposes*, Public Law 88-590, *US Statutes at Large* 78 (1964): 934.

13 Statistics current as of 2020 from “NPS Stats: National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics.” Online.





Jewels
OF THE
Colorado Plateau

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

NATURAL BRIDGES

RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL MONUMENTS

BY BOB FOLKMAN

The iconoclast, anarchist, and some-time Arches National Park ranger Edward Abbey wrote in his “Benedictio” (1988), *May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. May your rivers flow without end, meandering... down into a desert of red rock, blue mesas, domes and pinnacles and grottos of endless stone, and down again into a deep vast ancient unknown chasm... where something strange and more beautiful and more full of wonder than your deepest dreams waits for you — beyond that next turning of the canyon walls.*¹

Such is one of Abbey’s most famous descriptions of the desert Southwest, especially of the Colorado Plateau, a geologic expanse that is currently home to nine national parks and eighteen national monuments.² The Colorado Plateau is centered around the Four Corners and covers 130,000 to 150,000 square miles of mostly desert land in Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico—larger in area than any of the four states of which it is part.³ There is general agreement that the Plateau is bounded by the Uinta Mountains on the north, Colorado’s San Juan Mountains on the east, the Virgin River drainage to the west, and Arizona’s San Francisco Plateau and Gila Mountains to the south. Its most important



Delicate Arch



Broken Arch

features are the Colorado River—fed by its key tributaries, the Green, Fremont/Dirty Devil, San Juan, and Little Colorado Rivers—and the Grand Canyon that the river excavated for itself over tens of millions of years.

The Colorado Plateau is all about geology. The natural features that surprise us, that sometimes overwhelm our visual senses and often humble us, are partly the result of massive forces that occurred—and still occur—beneath the surface of the earth over incomprehensible periods of time. Yet the surface features that result from these powerful geologic forces—mountains, swells, rifts, chasms, canyons—all eventually yield to the gentle, persistent forces of weather and erosion to create the natural works of art found on the Plateau. Chief among these natural features are the marvelous arches and natural bridges—the jewels of the Colorado Plateau—found in three National Park Service entities in southeastern Utah.

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

Infrequent visitors to the parks and monuments on the Colorado Plateau will stand in awe at the improbable landscapes they find there. From Zion and Bryce Canyon on the west, southeast to the Grand Canyon, and then northeast to Arches, each park features a unique vista that is unexpected, often breathtaking, and sometimes overwhelming to our senses. When the awe begins to wear off and admiration for the natural beauty settles in, thoughtful visitors will ask the question that keeps so many coming back to visit again: How are these landscapes possible?

The features of the parks are visually and geologically unique and defy explanation in only a paragraph or two. The layers of rock we see exposed in the canyons and cliffs—and in the hoodoos, pinnacles, balanced rocks,

and arches—range from 250 million to only 15 million years old. These layers were accumulated under ancient seas or deposited by huge flowing rivers before and after the relentless forces of tectonic movement caused the level surface to rise, sometimes thousands of feet, and then crack and collapse, exposing the earth's history to view. To the geologist, each multi-colored layer is recognizable and tells its own story to help answer the question of "how."

Once exposed to the earth's surface, the layers of sediment—now rock hardened into limestone or sandstone—become subject to the subtle forces of water in the form of rain, snow, ice, floods, and to a much lesser extent, wind. Together, these are the forces of erosion, the true artist of the geologic artwork we admire so much. Erosion creates arches when softer minerals, like less-hardened sandstone or mixtures of silt, salt, or other minerals, are dissolved and washed away over time, leaving domes or walls of harder material standing alone, often in rows. The walls are called fins and are the most common parents of arches because they are not impossibly thick. As water finds weaknesses and cracks in the fins, softer

material gradually washes away, cavities form, and small openings follow and expand. Eventually an arch may be born. But like living things, not every arch survives, as erosion continues to take its toll. In our own day, significant and beautiful arches have collapsed and become lost to our view.⁴

Not all arches in Arches National Park share the same origin, although water is always the primary creative force. Pothole arches form over millennia when water settles in depressions on rock surfaces and—with the help of gravity—erodes through the rock to hollow out a room below. The seasonal accumulations of water finally erode an exit from the room, forming a new arch. There are several examples of pothole arches in the park.

And just as every arch does not have the same origin, not every arch is red in color. The layers of sediment buried over hundreds of millions of years are comprised of different mixtures of sand, silt, clay, and salt infused with other minerals. Each layer is compressed over time by the weight of the new layers accumulating above it and becomes sandstone, limestone, siltstone, or shale.

Landscape Arch

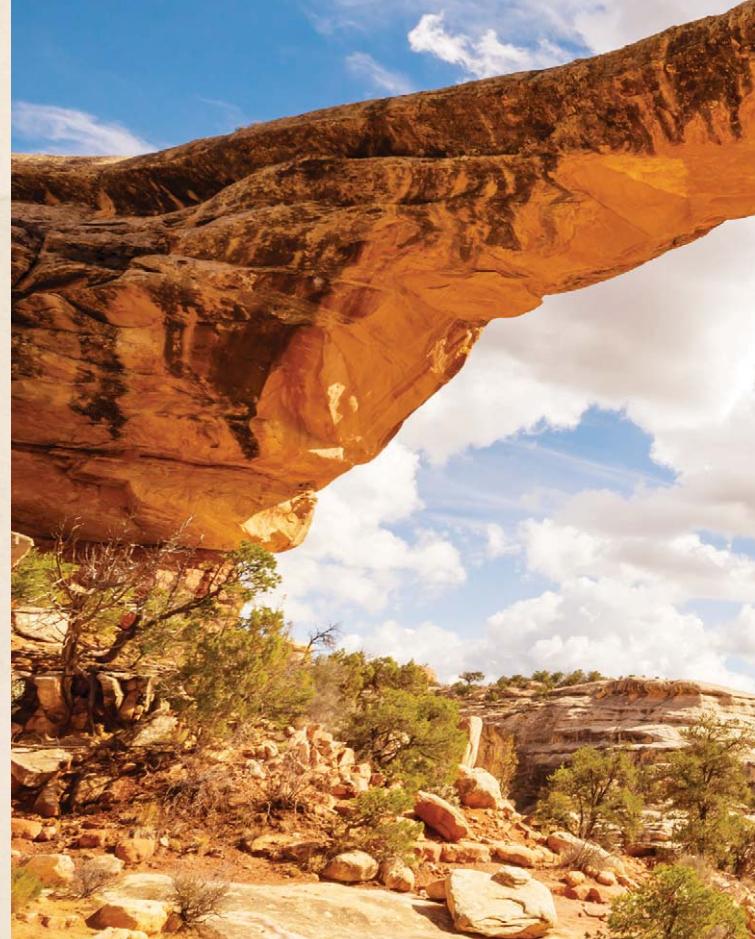


The shades of red, purple, yellow, and black result from varying amounts of iron oxide that coat the grains of rock. Grey, white, and light green rock lack iron content. Although most of the arches in Utah's parks are of red Jurassic Entrada sandstone, many white or yellow arches are also found on the Colorado Plateau.

Arches National Park is an almost perfect laboratory for the study of natural arches. With more than two thousand named arches⁵ in the park's 120 square miles, Arches offers some of the most singular views of any national park in the US. By 8:00 am on most spring, summer, and fall mornings, hundreds of vehicles will be climbing the entrance road to Arches, just north of Moab, Utah. Once in the park, visitors can drive on paved and unpaved roads, hike, camp, and climb, although climbing is not allowed on the arches or on other fragile formations like Balanced Rock. Along with the arches, Balanced Rock is a major attraction, with a height of 128 feet, including the 55-foot tall balanced rock itself. The nature of a balancing rock is that the rock will someday yield to erosion and gravity and fall, as has happened uncountable times in the past.

For more than a century before Arches received national recognition, a few travelers on the Old Spanish Trail surely knew of the unusual formations hidden high above the Colorado River near its most practical crossing at present-day Moab. But having urgent business elsewhere, these traders and trappers left only vague mentions of what they saw. The Indigenous peoples of the Southwest certainly knew of the arches and other formations for centuries before the Old Spanish Trail existed and viewed some of the formations as sacred sites reflecting the creative hand of a higher power.

The future Arches National Park began to attract widespread attention when Alex Ringhoffer, a Grand County prospector, persuaded Frank Wadleigh, a Denver & Rio Grande railroad manager, and George Bean, a photographer, to visit and take pictures in 1923. Other railroad executives from the East visited and eventually National Park Service officials took notice. Moab residents had often felt, as did Ringhoffer, that the area could be a popular tourist attraction. While the Coolidge administration did not show interest, many concerned Utahns and others nationally saw that the area's natural



features, along with its Indigenous petroglyphs and ruins, needed to be protected. President Herbert Hoover created Arches National Monument by proclamation on April 12, 1929, to protect the fragile red rock formations in the park. In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt expanded the park's boundaries to include Delicate Arch, one of the most dramatic, richly colored, and widely recognized arches in the world. Delicate Arch has had many informal names over the years—such as "Cowboys Chaps," a very descriptive name—but after a national magazine article in 1934 described it as "delicately formed," the name stuck.

In the late 1950s, Edward Abbey—then working as a park ranger at Arches—recorded his experiences and feelings for the beauty of the Southwest in his widely read book *Desert Solitaire*, first published in 1968. The resulting nationwide attention led Congress to pass and President Richard Nixon to sign the act that elevated



Arches to national park status on November 12, 1971. In 1998, President William Clinton again expanded the park's size. It is one of the most visited parks in the western US, welcoming more than 1.6 million guests annually in recent years.

NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Another type of arch is the natural bridge, title feature of Natural Bridges National Monument. By definition, a natural bridge is formed by flowing water. A river, stream, or dry stream bed will be seen below the bridge. While the same eroding characteristics of water are at work, natural bridges result from a flow of water cutting a new path through a sandstone fin or wall and

gradually enlarging the opening as the water inexorably seeks a lower level.

Natural Bridges is Utah's oldest national park or monument. It is a forty-five-mile winding drive west of Blanding following State Route 95 through White Canyon⁶ to State Route 275 and then to the monument's visitor center. The monument features three large natural bridges, ancestral Puebloan ruins, and numerous centuries-old pictographs and petroglyphs⁷ created by Indigenous inhabitants, including the ancestors of the Hopi people.

A *National Geographic* article published in 1904 gave nationwide publicity to the area.⁸ In 1906, Congress passed the Antiquities Act, and in 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Natural Bridges National Monument.

The three natural bridges in the monument are unusual in that they were formed recently in geologic



Half-tone plate engraved by J. W. Evans. Courtesy of the Century Magazine
The Little Bridge

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN 1904

terms, perhaps only about five thousand years ago, but their exact age is difficult to determine. They were “discovered” in 1883 by Cass White, a prospector who ventured up White Canyon from the Colorado River in search of gold. Instead, he came upon the three great bridges known today by their Hopi names: Sipapu, meaning the place of emergence of the ancestors of the Hopi; Kachina—a name that refers to a Hopi ancestral being—was named after the nearby ancient Puebloan rock art with designs still used on kachina dolls;⁹ and Owachomo, describing the rock mound seen on this bridge’s eastern shoulder.¹⁰ An early set of names proposed by Cass Hite for the three bridges included “President,” “Senator,” and “Congressman.” Other names were applied for a time, but officials finally settled on the Hopi names in 1909 when the park expanded to include nearby ancient Indigenous ruins.

Natural Bridges was designated the first International Dark Sky Park in 2006 because of its almost complete absence of light pollution. The Park has taken steps to prevent new sources of interfering light at night in order to preserve the quality of the dark sky experience. The low humidity also contributes to clear nighttime visibility of stars, planets, the Milky Way, and other objects in the heavens.¹¹

RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Until 1909, the existence of the yet unnamed Rainbow Bridge was only a rumor for most people in the US. Even in Utah, its location was a secret, likely known to only a few individuals from tribes residing in the Four Corners area. In that year, John Wetherill,¹² a well-known trader and desert explorer who, with his wife Louisa, operated a trading post in



Rainbow Bridge

PHOTO BY DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM

Oljato in San Juan County, reached out to University of Utah archeology professor Byron Cummings. Wetherill wanted to talk about reports of a giant sandstone arch that Louisa had heard about from Navajo people at the trading post. Cummings and his team had been working at several archeological sites in San Juan County.

At the same time, William B. Douglass, a leading surveyor from the Government Land Office, was mapping the newly formed Natural Bridges National Monument. He, too, had heard reports of an unknown rock bridge over a creek that flowed into the Colorado River.

For reasons unclear, Douglass was known to be unhappy with Cummings' archeological work, and a rivalry developed. Both men prepared to embark on searches for this mystical red rock jewel of the desert.

Fortunately, John Wetherill became a mediator between the two men by offering his services as a guide who knew many of the area's Indigenous residents. Although the relationship between Cummings and Douglass was tense, and the joint plan for the expedition nearly failed before it began, they started their trek together on August 9, 1909. Jim Mike, a Ute Mountain Ute, who the Doug-





Rainbow Bridge Discoverers, August 14, 1909: Front row, L to R: Mike's Boy, John Wetherill, Dr. Byron Cummings, W. B. Douglass, and Malcolm B. Cummings. Back Row: F. English, Dan Perkins, Jack Keenan, Gene Rogerson, Neil M. Judd, and Donald Beauregard.

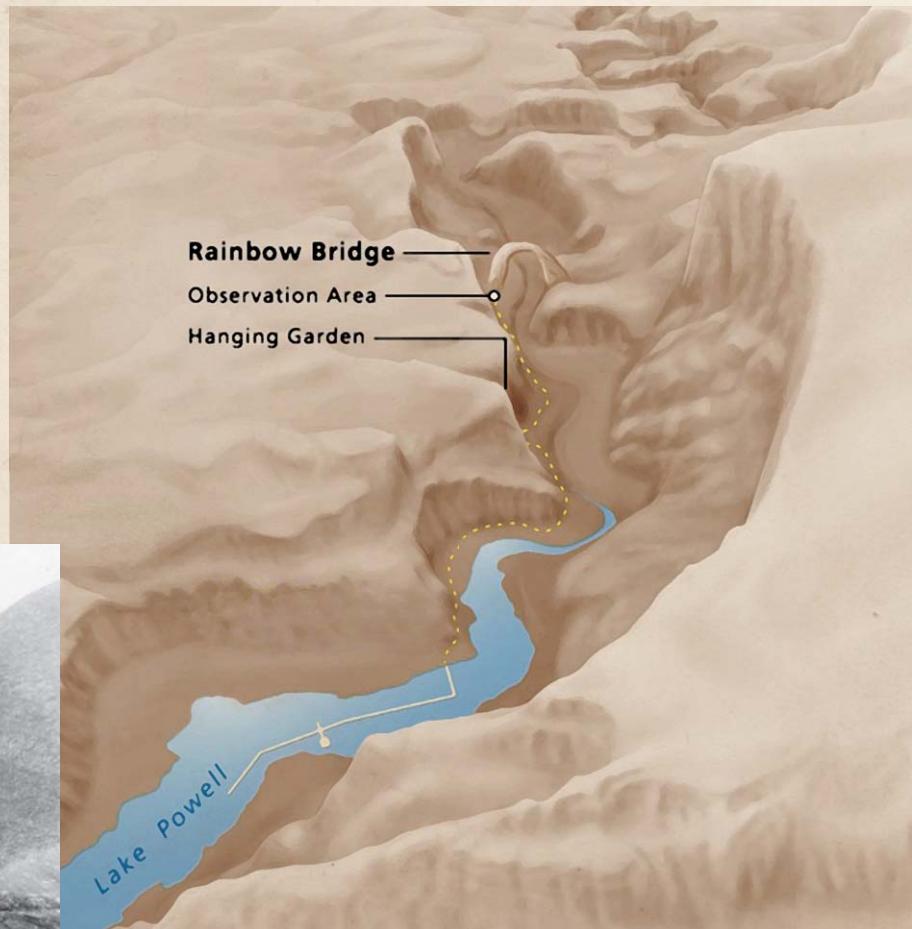
lass team had contracted as a guide, believed the Navajo reports to be true. He arranged for the team to meet with Nasja Begay, a Paiute who claimed to know the way to the bridge. Three days into the trip, they sighted the great arch, and Douglass and Cummings both spurred their horses to be the first to ride under the bridge's span. Perhaps to prevent either rival from claiming victory, Wetherill also spurred his horse and became the first white man known to have passed under the bridge.¹³

Rainbow Bridge became a national monument on May 30, 1910, signed into existence by President William Howard Taft. It is named for its rainbow shape rather than for an array of colors. At 160 acres, Rainbow Bridge NM is one of the smallest units of the National Park Service, managed by the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area headquartered in Page, Arizona. The beautiful bridge is located on the south side of Lake Powell, about six miles north of the Arizona state line and northwest of 10,387-ft Navajo Mountain. No roads access Rainbow Bridge, so most of the one hundred thousand annual visitors approach by boat on Lake Powell and then walk more than a mile, depending on the lake's water level, to



the authorized viewpoint. Visitors are not allowed to walk on or under the arch due to NPS agreements with the six Indian tribes with ancient cultural ties to the bridge.¹⁴ Two strenuous hiking trails also access Rainbow Bridge, one from the north side of Navajo Mountain and the other from the south. Both trails are 16-17 miles long and require carrying enough water for the two-to-three-day round trip. Since the trails are on Navajo tribal lands, this access requires a permit from the Navajo Nation.

There has been debate about the exact size of Rainbow Natural Bridge. The National Park Service currently publishes a span length of 275 feet and a height of 290 feet. The bridge itself is 42 feet thick and 33 feet wide. For many years, the Rainbow Bridge was thought to be the largest natural bridge in the world, but a few others may exceed its size.¹⁵ Nevertheless, it is an impressive example



SEE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, "TRAIL TO RAINBOW BRIDGE," NPS.GOV, ONLINE

of nature's finest work, a true jewel of the Colorado Plateau. □

1 Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*, 2 ed. (1988), vii.

2 National Monuments are created, enlarged, or diminished by presidential declaration, which has happened frequently. National Parks are created by acts of the US Congress. There are several other classifications of parks in the National Park System, including Recreation Areas, Historical Sites, Historical Parks, and others.

3 The Colorado Plateau has no official boundaries. See "Colorado Plateaus Province," Physiographic Provinces, *National Park Service*, nps.gov, online.

4 "Arches National Park Historical Timeline," *National Park Service*, nps.gov, online. On 4 Aug 2008 Wall Arch in Arches

National Park fell. Landscape Arch and Skyline Arch suffered significant rock falls during the twentieth century, but have not collapsed.

5 For an arch to be named, it must have an opening exceeding three feet. Artificial arches that result from rockfalls where rocks lean together to create an opening, or cracks forming in solid rock, do not count as an official natural arch. See "Types of Arches," *Arches National Park*, nps.gov, online.

6 White Canyon consists of a wide valley floor through which a narrow ravine has been cut by seasonal flowing streams. The ravine is a slot canyon with walls as much as a hundred or more feet high and with narrows areas that are permanently flooded ("White Canyon Slot Canyons," *American Southwest.net*, online).

7 Pictographs are paintings on stone using natural paints or stains. Petroglyphs are carved or scratched into the surface of a rock face.

8 "Colossal Natural Bridges of Utah," *National Geographic*, 15.9 (Sep 1904): 367. The article refers to an Aug 1904 article in *Century* not readily available in archives.

9 Harold S. Colton, *Hopi Kachina Dolls* (1959), 4–5. Kachina dolls are representations of Kachina dancers who are in turn representations of Kachina, a class of spiritual or ancestral beings below the gods. The dolls are teaching objects for children and are not the objects of worship.

10 "Naming the Bridges," History & Culture, *National Bridges National Monument*, nps.gov, online.

11 "Something Special: Parks, Monuments, and a Recreation Area," *Roadside Geology of Utah* (2014), 320.

12 John's oldest brother, Richard Wetherill, is credited with "discovering" the Cliff Palace in what is now Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. "The Wetherills of the Four Corners," online.

13 Family recollections are that Wetherill walked under the bridge ("The Cummings-Douglass Expedition," *Rainbow Bridge National Monument*, nps.gov, online).

14 The Hopi Tribe, Kaibab Paiute Tribe, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (White Mesa Band). Source: Rainbow Bridge National Monument, NPS online.

15 Jay H. Wilbur, "On Measuring Arches: Finding the Span of Arches with Simple Shapes," online. According to measurements by members by the Natural Arch and Bridge Society, the world's three longest natural bridges are in China. The longest arch is also found in China, estimated to be ten feet longer than the fragile Landscape Arch in Arches NP.





PIONEER VIGNETTE

BY KEITH LAWRENCE

CEDAR BREAKS AND TIMPANOOGOS CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENTS:

A Personal Response

The dual subject of this article may seem odd, if not entirely arbitrary. But these two national monuments in Utah are especially dear to me because of their respective proximity to my two “Utah homes”: until I turned eighteen, I lived in Summit, Iron County, Utah; since then—apart from a Latter-day Saint mission in Japan and a decade divided among California, Hawaii, and East Asia—my home has been the Provo-Orem area of Utah County. Cedar Breaks was just over twenty miles from my southern Utah home-town; Timpanogos Cave is about fifteen from our family home in Orem.

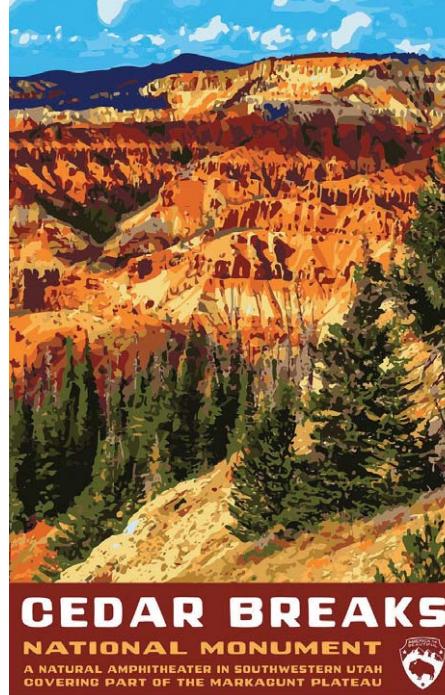
CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The summer after I turned five, our family enjoyed a three-day visit from my mom’s sister and her family. They lived in Hawaii, and my aunt and uncle wanted their kids to see one of the “local sites”—preferably something they’d never see at home. My dad suggested we all take a drive to nearby Cedar Breaks.

I'd never heard the name before, and I figured that "Cedar" came from "Cedar City" and "Cedar Canyon." The "Breaks" made no sense, partly because I heard "Brakes." Dad had told my uncle that it was a rugged and deep place with thousands of red rock formations. I figured that Cedar Breaks was a deep gorge off one side of a really steep place on the canyon road and that travelers had to brake a lot because they didn't want to go over the edge. I was a little creeped out thinking about it.

I don't remember many details of that first trip to Cedar Breaks, except that we took two cars because we couldn't all fit in one, and the drive was longer than my five-year-old patience was prepared for. I remember being relieved when we parked the car and walked to see the Breaks—and that we weren't inching down a steep road next to a gorge.

As we stood looking into the Breaks, I'm sure there were *oohs* of appreciation from my aunt and uncle and that my three older cousins joined in. My own feelings, though, are all I really remember. I remember feeling very small. I would later distinguish between my first Cedar Breaks impression and the neck-hairs-straight-up, ice-



in-the-stomach feeling that swept through me, several years later, when I first stared down the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, hardly breathing. While the Breaks were simultaneously wild and gorgeous, and while they were far too much for my five-year-old mind to take in, I had the odd feeling that they were also strangely approachable, strangely safe. *I wouldn't have to fall to get to the very bottom, I was thinking, correctly or otherwise. I could walk a long path there, cut back there, take another long path there, and eventually make it all the way down there.*

I've since learned, of course, that "cedar" is a misnomer—for the city, for the canyon, for the Breaks themselves—deriving from Latter-day Saint settlers' reliance on the smell of the bark and wood of the juniper tree to (mis)identify it. I've also learned that "breaks" is a now-archaic word for badlands—for non-arable and largely uninhabitable lands dominated by unusual geologic formations. I've learned that the original Paiute inhabitants of the region called the Breaks *Uncapiunump*, or Circle of the Painted Cliffs.

Around ninety million years ago, Cedar Breaks was on the shoreline of an ancient shallow sea or ocean to the east. Thirty million years later, the sea had long since disappeared, together with much of a towering mountain range to the west. Now there were mountains on the east, and Cedar Breaks was buried beneath Lake Claron, a lake that rose, fell, dried up, and then refilled in several cycles over the next thirty million years. Deposits of sand and mud, along with traces of iron and magnesium, were left in hundreds of layers. When Lake Claron evaporated for the final time about thirty million years ago, these layers had hardened into sedimentary rock buried beneath the earth's surface.¹

About ten million years ago, earthquakes along the Hurricane Fault began thrusting up land immediately east, including Cedar Breaks and the rest of the Markagunt Plateau, and dropping land to the west. Water and wind erosion, together with the actions of freezing and





thawing, began carving the cliffs, canyon, and hoodoos comprising the amphitheater of the Breaks. Iron and magnesium oxide provided the beautiful orange, red, pink, and purple colors of the hoodoos, temples, and canyon walls.²

To the ancient Paiute, who also called the area *Umapwich*—Place Where Rocks Slide Down—Cedar Breaks was a place of mysterious beauty, a place of awe. Today's Paiute occasionally hold ceremonies above the amphitheater.

To procure timber and firewood, Latter-day Saint settlers of Parowan began constructing a

wagon road up what is now Parowan Canyon only weeks after the town was founded in January 1851. Eventually this road extended fifteen miles up the canyon, ending at a natural barrier they called Cedar Breaks—and which, unfortunately, was seen more as an impediment than a scenic wonder.³

Rudimentary tours of the site did not begin until 1921 when S. A. Halterman took paying guests on once-a-week round trips in his personal automobile.⁴ Twelve years later, in August 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created Cedar Breaks National Monument.



TIMPANOOGOS CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT

After becoming a Utah County resident when I entered Brigham Young University back in the early 1970s, I visited Bridal Veil Falls many times; I became familiar with Rock Canyon and the unfortunately named Squaw Peak. Later, I delighted in skiing at Sundance, snowshoeing at Alpine Grove, and traveling the Alpine Loop. I often climbed Y Mountain; I twice climbed to the barren ridge of Mt. Timpanogos—the second time with my ten-year-old son—and marveled at how much of my adopted county I could see. I have visited the historical centers of many Utah County communities. And I once made it to the summit of Mt. Nebo on Utah County's border with Juab County.

Until this year, however, I had never climbed the trail to Timpanogos Cave National Monument nor entered the cave itself. Now in our sixties, my wife and I decided that if we put it off any longer, we'd never do it at all. (When each of our now-married children learned our plans, they demanded, *"Why now? Why didn't you take us when we were young?"*)

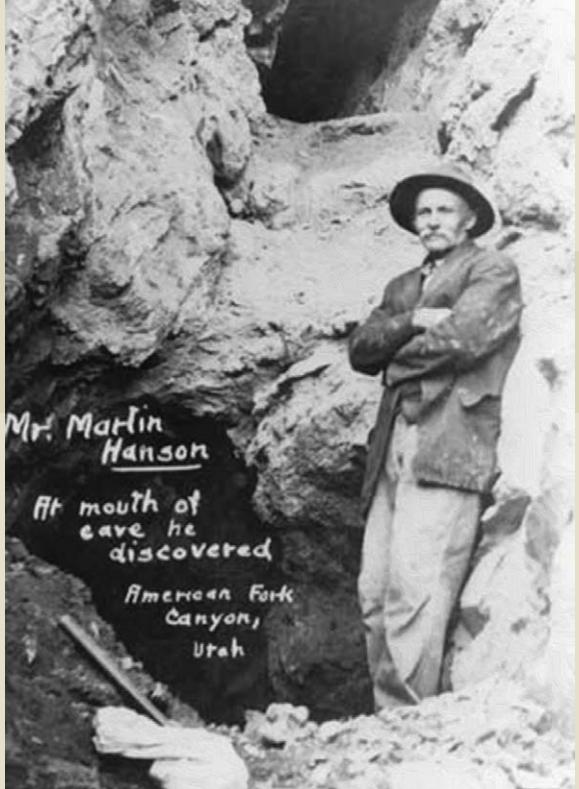
Before our tour I did some quick online searches and learned that Timpanogos Cave isn't one cave but three—Hansen Cave, Middle Cave, and Timpanogos Cave. These were artificially joined via short connecting tunnels during the 1930s. I learned that the cave system is just over a half mile in length, extending through the north end of Mount Timpanogos. Guests enter via Hansen's Cave and exit via Timpanogos Cave. Guests climb nearly 1,100 feet from the visitor's center to the cave entrance at Hansen's Cave; they exit via Timpanogos Cave. It is just over a mile and a half from the visitors center to the mouth of the cave. Combined with the walk through the cave and the slightly longer descent trail, the full hike is just under four miles long.⁸



My family made other trips to Cedar Breaks, usually on a late summer afternoon. Sometimes we stopped at Navajo Lake, also on the Markagunt Plateau. In the partial shadow of late afternoon or early evening, the lake was a deep, stunning blue that no camera could accurately capture. I found it difficult to reconcile its serenity with the violence that occasioned its naming—the murder on its shores of Navajo raiders tracked down by southern Utah whites determined to recapture stolen stock. I much preferred its Paiute name, *Pacuay* or Cloud Lake, signifying its high elevation at more than 9,000 feet.⁵

And there were other little-known sites to experience on my family's sometimes roundabout way to or from Cedar Breaks, most of them along or near Highway 143, the fifty-five-mile "Patchwork Parkway": Red Canyon, Vermillion Castle Trail, Panguitch Lake, Yankee Meadows Reservoir, and Twisted Forest–Dry Lakes Trail.

Since my childhood, the original North View Overlook has been joined by three others—Chessmen Ridge, Sunset View, and Point Supreme—dotted along Rim Road, a five-mile connector between Highways 143 and 148. Each overlook provides a unique view of a separate area of the Breaks, and a stop at each is necessary to a full appreciation of the beauty of the monument.⁶ As the stunning site "crowning the Grand Staircase,"⁷ Cedar Breaks is a compact and accessible scenic treasure of southwestern Utah.



Martin Hansen at the natural entrance to Hansen Cave, which he discovered in 1887.



James William Gough



John Franklin Johnson



Early view of the Organ Pipe Room, Hansen Cave.

See "Cave Discoverers" History/Culture, *Timpanogos Cave National Monument, nps.gov*, online.

The most interesting story about the Timpanogos Cave system is the story of its discovery. This story is really four shorter tales featuring separate human characters on separate dates. While Indigenous peoples passed through, hunted in, or occupied the region where the cave system is located, there is "no evidence of people entering the Timpanogos Cave system before the discoveries in 1887, 1914, and 1921."⁹

Hansen's Cave, the smallest of the three caves in the system, was discovered by Lehi (Utah) resident Martin Hansen in the fall of 1887 while he was cutting timber high up the northern slopes of Mt. Timpanogos. Some accounts suggest he followed cougar tracks to the natural cave opening; family stories claim that, as he was cutting a tree, he felt echoing sounds beneath his feet and then sought out a cave opening he believed must exist.¹⁰ Over the next months, Hansen himself fashioned a rough trail to the natural mouth of the cave, much of it apparently running straight up the mountain. Over the next few years, he took small groups of paying guests on tours of the cave.¹¹

Because Martin's discovery came at a time before there were laws protecting caves holding geological wonders, some of his guests apparently took "souvenirs" home with them. And during 1892–93, other Utah County men—without Hansen's knowledge—filed mining claims and, working under contract with the Duke Onyx Company of Chicago, Illinois, gradually stripped the rooms of Hansen's Cave of most of their flowstone, stalactites, stalagmites, and other formations.¹²

During the summer of 1913 a few families from Lehi were exploring Hansen's Cave. James William Gough and John Franklin Johnson,¹³ two teenagers with the group, grew bored; they exited the cave and began exploring ledges above it, gradually moving some distance east.¹⁴ Gough noticed a mineralized rock, and, having a keen interest in mining, knew that it might indicate deposits of precious metals. As he and Johnson dug around the rock, it loosened and "fell into a dark hole." Peering into the hole, they noticed light from another apparent opening in the nearby mountainside. Identifying the light source as a crack next to a rock slab that was mostly buried, they began clearing dirt and rocks away from it. Eventually, the slab tumbled into darkness, leaving an entrance to the new cave.¹⁵

The young men "explored the cave until they reached a deep pit" which they were unable to cross, so they returned to Hansen Cave to "inform their group of what they had discovered." The full group entered the new cave, that first day exploring only about as far as "The Heart of Timpanogos." Two weeks later, "with rope, string, and carbide lanterns in tow," members of the group returned to the cave and explored much further. In the years immediately following his discovery of the cave, Gough filed a minerals claim in partnership with two other men, but never acted to do any mining before the Forest Service assumed custody of the cave—as a Public Service Site—in 1921.¹⁶

Sometime after its initial discovery in 1913, the entrance to Timpanogos Cave was lost or deliberately obscured.¹⁷ Still, in Utah County stories spread of a mysterious cave larger and more glorious than

Hansen's Cave had been before it was looted. In 1921 an article entitled "Another Beautiful Cave Discovered?" appeared in the American Fork Citizen, repeating stories about a secret cave and its threatened commercial exploitation.¹⁸

One reader who couldn't stop thinking about the article was twenty-year-old **Vearl James Manwill** whose forest ranger father had been assigned to a station in American Fork Canyon



during most of Vearl's childhood. Now living in Payson, Utah, Vearl sought out Martin Hansen for advice on where he might look for the cave. Hansen said he had no idea, but suggested that Martin search in the area of Hansen's Cave while staying at its elevation on the mountainside during the search.¹⁹

Manwill enlisted the help of close friends and, in the early morning of August 14, 1921, they climbed the mountain to Hansen's Cave, entered it, and noted the extensive damage to it. They then began searching for the unknown cave, splitting up to search more efficiently.²⁰ Manwill was exploring a segment of the mountainside east of the others when he noticed an odd cluster of rocks that looked like "artificial masonry." He kicked at it, the rocks tumbled inward, and Manwill "realized he had discovered the lost cave entrance." He and his group soon squeezed inside the cave and, using "human ladders and bridges" as necessary, explored several of the first rooms of the cave. That same evening around their campfire they formed the Payson Alpine Club, committing to protect the cave.²¹

Two weeks later Manwill returned to the site in "a party of twenty-two." When the group exited the cave, two men from the Forest Service met them on the mountainside, Deputy Supervisor Walter G. Mann and Ranger Vivian West. The rangers accused the group of trying to keep the location of the cave secret and of attempting to commercialize it. "A day later," Manwill writes, "an article appeared in a Salt Lake newspaper entitled 'Forest Rangers Discover Mysterious Cave.' We were not mentioned in the article." Not until 1926 did Manwill and his friends receive credit for rediscovering the cave.²²

In October 1921, two months after Manwill and his friends rediscovered Timpanogos Cave, thirty-seven-year-old George Heber Hansen (a son of Martin Hansen) and his seventeen-year-old nephew, Wayne Errol Hansen, were hunting deer in Tank Canyon, a branch of American Fork Canyon opposite the caves. While eating lunch, Wayne was using field glasses to look for game across the canyon. He noted the entrances to Hansen's Cave and the newly rediscovered

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL CAVE DISCOVERED

It is understood that a new cave has been found in American Fork canyon. We have not been able to find out the exact location of it, as the owners refuse to tell, but it is somewhere near the present Hansen cave. It is stated by those who have seen it that it is three times as large as the Hansen cave and many times as beautiful. The cave has many large rooms and is over 1000 feet long. It has several lakes and is filled with beautiful specimens of stalactites and stalagmites. It is hoped that at least pictures can be taken to show some of the beautiful scenes inside.

The owners declare that they have known of its whereabouts for over eight years. They hold a mining claim to the property and refuse to give its exact location as they don't want visitors, who are apt to break off the specimens and destroy the looks of the cave.

It is understood also that they have had an offer from an eastern college to purchase the cave and ship the specimens back for their museum. This it is said would be unlawful.

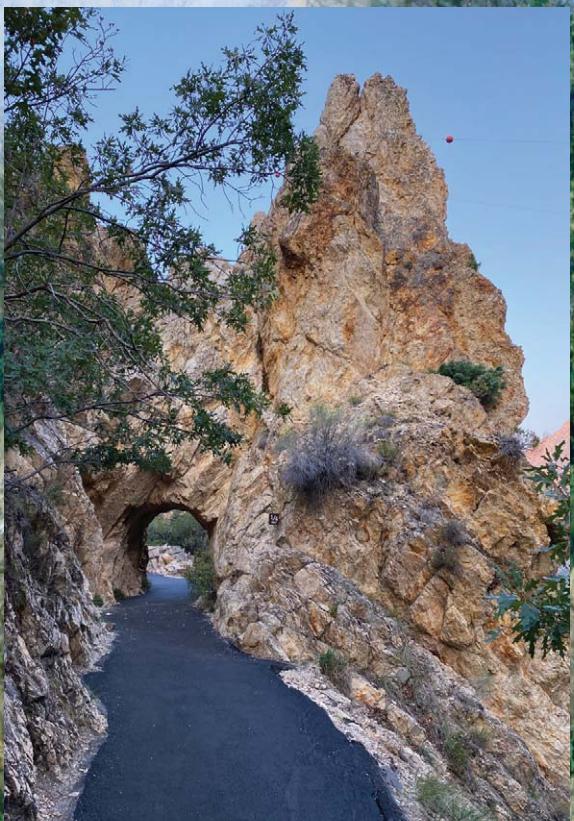
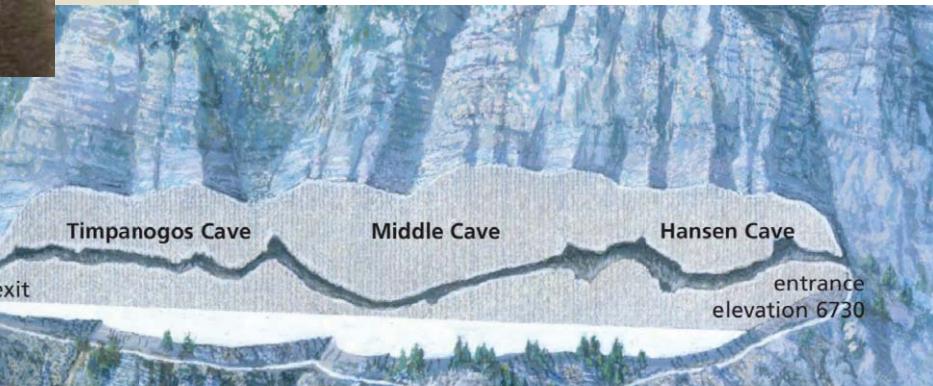
The Commercial club and the Forest Service may take the matter up and see if this cave cannot be opened to the public so that all may see its wonders and beauties.



***YEarl James Manwill
“realized he had discovered
the lost cave entrance.” . . .
That same evening around
their campfire they
formed the Payson Alpine
Club, committing to protect
the cave.***

cave to the east, and then spotted “what appeared to be another entrance between the two known entrances.” The two decided to abandon their unsuccessful hunt and examine the apparent third entrance.²³

To get their bearings they first climbed to Hansen’s Cave and then scrambled east. They soon located the irregular opening that Wayne had seen from across the canyon, about three feet at its widest point and about four feet tall. After crawling into the opening, they recognized that they were on a downward-sloping ledge that, within a few feet, dropped off precipitously to the cave floor below.





Tossing small rocks off the ledge, they estimated that, to descend, they would need a rope thirty or forty feet in length.²⁴

Although Heber and Wayne returned home with no venison, news of their discovery was received with great excitement. Several family members—including Martin Hansen himself, now seventy-four years old—asked to be included in the return expedition. With ropes and appropriate gear in tow, Wayne made this and at least one other trip to Middle Cave before it was turned over to the Forest Service in November 1921.²⁵

As my wife and I learned about the cave's history during and following our tour, we were actually relieved that the system's three caves were not naturally connected and that they were discovered at different historical moments.

Only one primary room of Hansen's Cave is seen by tour groups; other rooms of Hansen's Cave are preserved because of their fragility and because they host the cave system's water supply. That single room of Hansen's Cave starkly contrasts with every other room of the cave system. While still beautiful, that room has indeed been stripped of its treasures—as every other room in the system would have been had they been naturally connected.

While my wife and I recognized that the cave is not nearly as expansive as

Mammoth Cave or Carlsbad Caverns, its length is impressive. The tour includes only a fraction of Hansen's Cave; the "Lower Passage" of Middle Cave and several branches of Timpanogos Cave are not included at all. We loved Middle Cave Lake, the Cavern of Sleep, the "Great Heart of Timpanogos," the Camel Room, Carmel Falls. Our favorite room was the Chimes Chamber with its intricate helictites (short, tubelike formations with unpredictable forms), anthodites (needle-like crystals occurring in clusters), and soda straw stalactites. The room is a dazzlingly white, magically delicate wonderland.

And we loved the hike to and from the cave as much as we loved the cave itself. The early-morning air was crisp and invigorating; views of the valley floor, towering rock formations, and surrounding alpine slopes were stunning.

Cedar Breaks was a natural anchor of my growing years; Timpanogos Cave has become a natural mainstay of my golden ones. Together, they mark the stunning variety and contrasts of Utah's scenic glory. □

1 "Cedar Breaks National Monument, Utah," *National Parks Service, nps.gov*, online.

2 Ibid.

3 Wayne K. Hinton, "Cedar Breaks National Monument," *Utah History Encyclopedia* (1994), *uen.org*, online.

4 Ibid.

5 "Dixie National Forest: Navajo Lake," *Forest Service, usda.gov*; "Navajo Lake, Utah," *Lake-Lubbers.com*; both online.

6 "Cedar Breaks, Maps," *National Park Service, nps.org*, online.

7 "Cedar Breaks," *nps.gov*.

8 "Timpanogos Cave Maps," *National Park Maps, npmaps.com*; "Timpanogos Cave Trail," *AllTrails.com*; "Timpanogos Cave National Monument," *Britannica.com*; all online. Tour groups inside the cave are limited to fourteen persons each; each tour lasts about fifty minutes. A virtual tour of the cave is available online at www.nps.gov/tica on the "Photos and Multimedia" tab.

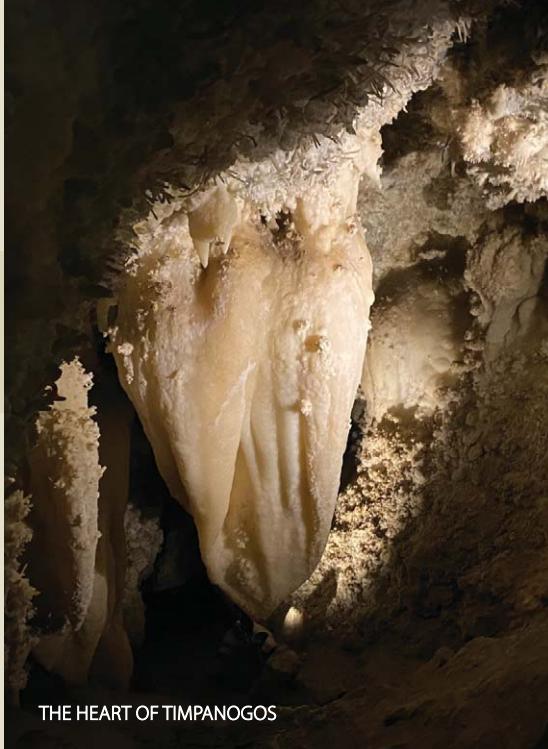
9 Cami Pulman, *Heart of the Mountain* (2009), 7; "Cave Discoverers," *History/Culture, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, nps.gov*, online.

10 "Discovery of the Hansen Cave of the Timpanogos Cave National Monument," PDF, *Lehi-Ut.gov* (Apr 2016), 1; online.

11 Ibid.

12 "Discovery of the Hansen Cave," 2,3. Some of the formations allegedly ended up in Chicago and New York City museums.

13 Most online sources incorrectly state that the boys were fourteen years old when they discovered the cave in 1913. James William Gough, born in Lehi on 29 Nov 1897 to James Charles and Elizabeth Trinnaman Gough, would have been nearly sixteen; John Franklin Johnson, born in Springville on 9 Mar 1898



THE HEART OF TIMPANOOGOS



CARMEL FALLS



CHIMES CHAMBER

to Harmon Eli and Alice Whitmore Johnson, would have passed his fifteenth birthday.

14 "James W. Gough and Frank Johnson," online; James W. Gough, "James Gough Affidavit," n.d., Pulman, Appendix C, 104–5.

15 Ibid.

16 Ibid; Pulman 19; Gough 104–5. Contradicting accepted history of the cave's discovery, Gough's obituary states that, "at age seventeen, he and Ernest Sorenson were climbing in American Fork Canyon and fell into a hole, which later became known as Timpanogos Cave" ("James W. Gough," *Deseret News*, Utah County [10 Jul 1986]: B5).

17 National Park Service sites suggest that a landslide occurred in the area of the entrance to Timpanogos Cave, obscuring the opening. Gough's affidavit suggests instead that Gough intentionally sealed up the opening of the cave, a possibility strengthened by Vearl Manwill's account of "rough masonry" concealing the opening (see Gough 105; Vearl Manwill, "Vearl Manwill Affidavit," n.d., Pulman, Appendix D, 106).

18 Pulman 17–8.

19 Manwill 106–7; "Vearl Manwill," *Cave Discoverers, People, History/Culture, Timpanogos Cave National Monument*, *nps.org*; "Vearl James Manwill (1900–1966)," *FindAGrave.com*; last three online, quotations from "Vearl Manwill."

20 The "Vearl Manwill" site and the Manwill affidavit suggest that Manwill and his group arrived at the base of the mountain, climbed to Hansen's Cave, explored it, searched for the opening to the lost cave, and, after locating the opening, explored the lost cave as well—all on the same day of 14 Aug 1921. This is a lot of activity for a single day. Too, as Aug 14 was a Sunday in 1921, one imagines the group may have allowed more weekend time for their search, arriving at the base on Aug 13 or even

Aug 12 and searching/exploring over at least two days.

21 Manwill 106–7; "Vearl Manwill"; "Vearl James Manwill (1900–1966)", all online. There were ten members in the group, five women and five men (Pulham 18).

22 Manwill 107.

23 Pulman 22–3; "George Heber Hansen and Wayne Hansen," *Cave Discoverers, People, History/Culture, Timpanogos Cave National Monument*, *nps.org*, online; Wayne Hansen, "Affidavit of Wayne Hansen" (October 1956), Pulman, Appendix E, 108–9. Pulman and National Park Service sources give the date of the Hansens' discovery as October 16 (a Sunday); in his affidavit Wayne Hansen asserts that he and his uncle found the cave "on or about October 20, 1921" (a Thursday).

24 Ibid.

25 Ibid. In his affidavit, Wayne Hansen gives the date of the first return visit as "October 24 or 25"; he does not date the second visit.

Dinosaur National Monument

BY MARTHA HAYDEN

All kids love dinosaurs, and Utah is one of the best places to satisfy kids' curiosity about Earth's early inhabitants. Dinosaur National Monument, in northeastern Utah and northwestern Colorado, is best known for its Dinosaur Quarry, located near the town of Jensen, Utah.

Dinosaur Quarry is an area rich in dinosaur and other fossils and is situated in a rock layer known as the Morrison Formation, a massive rock unit from the Late Jurassic period (155 million to 148 million years ago) that extends throughout the western United States. Rocks in the Morrison Formation frequently contain fossils of such dinosaurs as *Camarasaurus*, *Diplodocus*, *Apatosaurus*, *Stegosaurus*, *Allosaurus*, and others. This rock unit is named after Morrison, Colorado, a small-town west of Denver where the first major discovery of Morrison dinosaurs was made in 1877.

The closing decades of the nineteenth century saw a "dinosaur rush," a competition to discover and name the most dinosaurs. Two famous paleontologists, Edward. D. Cope of Philadelphia and O. Charles March from Yale University, engaged in the rivalry. The competition became so intense and so public that it became known as the Bone Wars. Each man sent groups of diggers to newly discovered sites and attempted to sabotage the other's progress. They uncovered numerous sites in Colorado and Wyoming that held remains of Jurassic dinosaurs.

Because of strong scientific attention to the Morrison Formation, **Earl Douglass**, a paleontologist from the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a specialist in fossil mammals, determined in 1907 that he would begin working the Morrison Formation in Utah's Uintah Basin. He hoped to find dinosaur skeletons to display in the Carnegie Museum.

In August 1909, while working along a ridge of steeply



tilted strata at a quarry site in northeastern Utah, Douglass discovered a series of eight large vertebrae weathering out of a sandstone layer. These vertebrae were from the tail of the dinosaur *Apatosaurus* and would prove to be part of the most complete skeletons of *Apatosaurus* ever found.

Douglass worked at this site, named the Carnegie Quarry, for the next fifteen years. Most of the fossilized bones went to the Carnegie Museum, but Douglass also helped send specimens to the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and the University of Utah. Over 350 tons of fossil material were shipped from the site by Douglass and his crew.

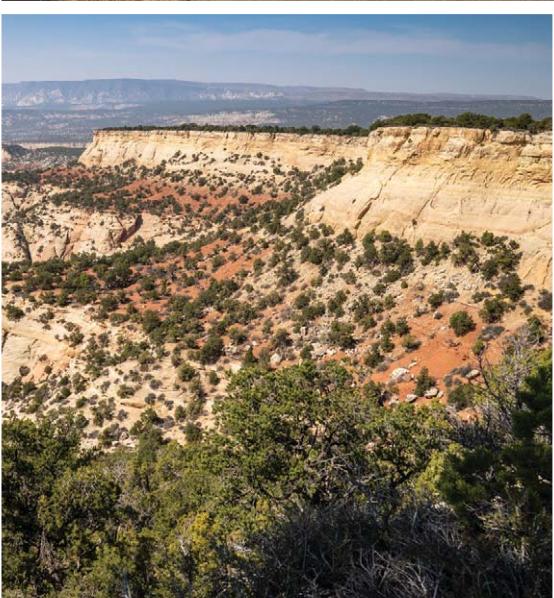
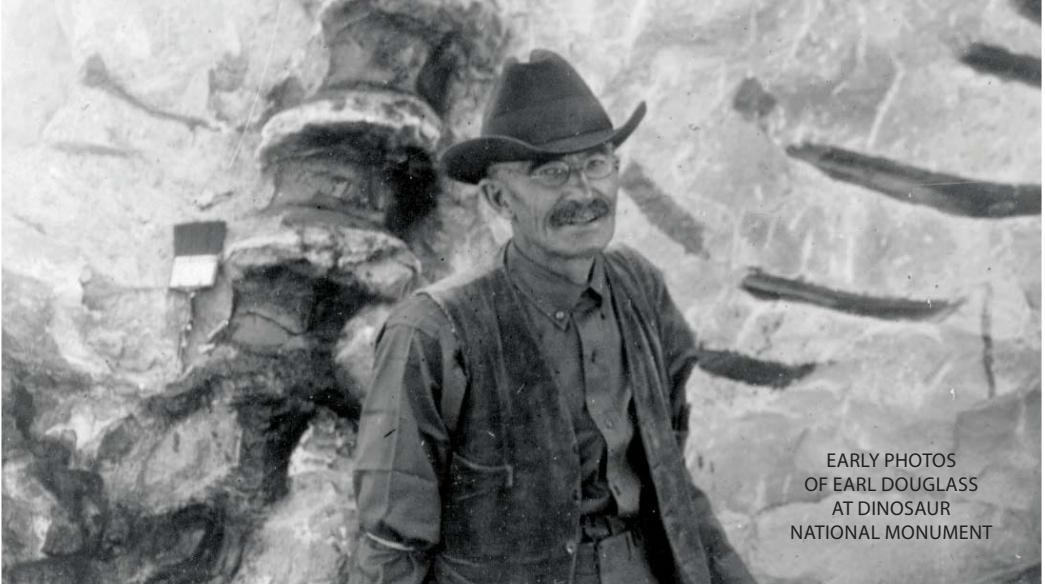
In 1924 Douglass joined the staff of the University of Utah where he spent two years preparing fossils from the quarry for mounting. Dinosaur remains excavated from the site include those of both plant-eating and meat-eating species. In addition to dinosaur fossils, the quarry has yielded the remains of two kinds of crocodiles, two kinds of turtles, a frog, freshwater clams, and fossilized plant material.

The quarry site was declared a National Monument in 1915. The monument boundaries were expanded in 1938 from the original eighty-acre tract largely comprised of the quarry itself to its present size of over 200,000 acres in Utah and Colorado, encompassing the spectacular canyons of the Green and Yampa Rivers. In addition to Dinosaur Quarry, the National Park Service manages and protects a variety of other natural and cultural resources within these expanded boundaries.

Vernal, Utah, the largest town in the area of the monument, bills itself as the gateway to "Dinosaurland." Its Utah Field House of Natural History Museum and Dinosaur Gardens provide contexts and overviews of Dinosaur Quarry and the surrounding national monument. □



Sources: Martha Hayden, "Dinosaur National Monument," *Utah History Encyclopedia*, uen.org (1994), online; "Celebrated Fossil Quarry," *Carnegie Museum of Natural History* (2020), online.



Little Zion Valley

“**N**othing can exceed the wondrous beauty of Little Zion Valley which separates the two temples [West and East Temples] and their respective groups of towers. Nor are these the only sublime structures which look down into its depths, for similar ones are seen on either hand along its receding vista until a turn in the course carries the valley out of sight. In its proportions it is about equal to Yosemite, but in the nobility and beauty of the sculptures there is no comparison. It is Hyperion to a satyr. No wonder the fierce Mormon zealot, who named it, was reminded of the Great Zion on which his fervid thoughts were bent—‘of houses not built with hands, eternal in the heaven.’”

—Clarence E. Dutton of the US Geological Survey in a report published in 1880.

